







*K Reinhold's*  
THE  
HISTORY  
OF

*Reynard the Fox,*

AND

REYNARDINE his Son.

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IN TWO PARTS.

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With Morals to each Chapter, explaining what appears Doubtful or Allegorical: and every Chapter illustrated with a curious Device, or Picture, representing to the Eye all the material Passages. Written by an eminent Statesman of the German Empire, and since done into *English, Dutch, French, Italian, &c.*

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Printed for the Booksellers of London and Westminster.

THE

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS



BY ALFRED REPTON

IN TWO VOLUMES

Vol. I. Mammals to the end of the chapter on the  
the whole of the British fauna of the  
and every Chapter of the book is  
a complete list of the British  
into the type of the whole  
Vol. II. The remainder of the book  
of the German Empire, and the  
first English, Dutch, French, Italian, &c.

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T H E  
P R E F A C E  
T O T H E  
R E A D E R.

Kind READER,

**I**N this small History, under the Tables or Stories of Birds and Beasts, you will find things not only pleasant but advantageous to the Improvement of your Understanding, to a degree, that you may read Men as well as Books, by their Actions decipher'd in it: Here you may see Policy, Deceit, Wisdom, Power, Strength, and many other Things lively set forth; and by the Events and Success, whether Good or Bad, judge accordingly of those that use them, whether they tend to honest or evil Purposes.

Here, as in a Mirror, the politick Statesman may see his Counterfeit; the flattering Parasite how to carry himself even, and sail with all Winds;

## The Preface to the Reader,

*Winds; the Powerful and Mighty, how weak it is to rely wholly on Strength, when they have a subtil Enemy to deal with; and those that trust fawning Friendship, are convinc'd, that in Adversity but few will stand by them: and a number of other Things is contain'd in it, suiting the States and Conditions of all sorts of People.*

*It is a Book that has been printed in most European Languages, as, Dutch, French, Italian, &c. and that other Nations, who have given it high Encomiums and Applause; it being, originally, written by an Antient Statesman of the German Empire, to shew some Men their Follies, and correct the Vices of the Times he liv'd in: Therefore receive it not as a Trifle, but as a Work of Weight and Moment, which cost much sound Judgment and Labour in Compiling, and being done into English, it varies little from the Original: However, as it is, I recommend it to you, in hopes you will find as much Pleasure and Advantage in Reading and well Weighing it as I did.*

2 AP60  
Your Friend,

and Humble Servant,

D. P.

The



# The History of Reynard the Fox.

## The First Part.

### CHAP. I.

*How Lion summon'd all the Beasts of the Forest to the Annual Feast of Pentecost, to be held at his Royal Palace of Sanden; with the several Complaints there made against Reynard the Fox, &c.*



**W**hen the Sun return'd to rescue the  
drooping Earth from the cold Em-  
braces

braces of Winter, and cloathed each Tree and Field in a pleasant Livery of Green, enamell'd over with fragrant Flowers of various Colours; then it was, the noble Lion, King of Beasts, sent out his Royal Mandates to all his Subjects, the Inhabitants of Woods, Forests, and Fields, to attend him at his Royal Palace of *Sanden*, there to celebrate the annual Feast of *Pentecost*: Which was no sooner signified to 'em, that it was his Pleasure they should give their Attendance, without any Excuse or Delay, but they flock'd thither in great Numbers, (as well to shew their Obedience, as to avoid his Displeasure) at the Time appointed; and being call'd over, none was found wanting but the Fox; who, conscious of Guilt for the many Injuries he had done, kept close in his Den, as fearing they would make such just Complaints against him, as might endanger his Life: Nor were his Fears vain, or suggested; for the King with the Queen on his right Hand, and the Leopard, his Kinsman, on the left, being seated on the Throne, under the Canopy of a spacious Oak, and Silence being commanded, he proceeded to commend them for their ready Obedience, in giving such exact and punctual Attendance; but missing the Fox, he wond.

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 7

wonder'd how he alone shou'd neglect being there at this so solemn a Meeting, since he had always held him as a Friend, in high Esteem ; which made them enquire about his Welfare, supposing some Sickness or Misfortune had befall him : But while his Wonder lasted, Sir *Isgrim*, the Wolf, stood up and accused him in this manner :

My most Gracious Sovereign Lord, I well know, that it is neither Sickness or any Ill-hap, that makes *Reynard* decline appearing before your Majesty, with the rest of your Subjects ; but his great Guilt for the many Outrages and Violences he has committed against a number here present, whose just Complaints he fears will be laid against him, to bring him to deserv'd Punishment and Disgrace, for abusing not only us, but your Majesty, in condemning your Orders and Commands, notwithstanding your Clemency towards him heretofore, and the many Favours you've heap'd upon him ; and particularly, as to the great Injury he has done me and my Family, I have brought many to testify it, and which, being plainly prov'd, I doubt not of your Majesty's Consent to Redress and Revenge my Wrongs. Then thus, Dread Sovereign, it was, My Wife and Children being at home, and

*The History of Reynard the Fox.*

basking at their Ease, whilst I was ranging abroad, *Reynard* coming that way, enter'd my House forcibly, against my Wife's Consent, and after many Scoffings and Tauntings at her, and my young Ones, in a scornful kind of sporting manner, whisking up his Tail, he so bepifs'd their Eyes, that by the stink and sharpness of his Urine, they immediately became blind, and have ever since continued so, to the great Grief and Sorrow of me and my poor Wife: And altho' a Day was set that he should come to answer for this Injury, and the Book was tender'd him to swear, whether he was Guilty of it, or not; yet he refus'd to do it, in Contempt of your Majesty's Command and Royal Authority. Many more Injuries I could reckon up, as divers noble Beasts here present can testifie; but they are so many, and grievous, that should I tell 'em all, they would tire your Patience, and discompose your Majesty with too great an Anger: and therefore expecting the Justice of the Law, for what I have related, and more particularly for the Shame and Villany he offer'd my Wife, which in this Place I am unwilling to mention, I shall at this Time say no more, lest I should seem too tedious to your Grace.



*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 9

He had no sooner ended, but *Curtis* the Hound, ( formerly a Lady's Lap-dog, but turn'd off when French Spanels came into Favour ) in a pitious Tone, began to yelp out his Complaint against the Fox, saying, May it please your Majesty, Tho' I was brought up tenderly, lay warm, and far'd sumptuously at my Lady's Table every Day, yet, losing my Mistress's Favour, to make room for a French Cur, I was thrust out of Doors in a cold Winter, and forc'd to ramble up and down till almost starv'd ; but at last Fortune turn'd a little favourable, and gave me a good Chance to find a Pudding ; which, tho' *Reynard* knew it was all I had to live on, he violently took it from me, so that thro' Cold and Hunger, as your Highness may plainly see, I am almost starv'd to death ; and therefore I demand Justice against him.

*Sir Tibert*, the Cat, hearing this, and being akin to *Reynard*, in a Rage started out of the Throng, and humbly besought his Majesty's Leave to speak ; which the King granting, he proceeded in this wise :

May it please my Sovereign Lord, I own that grievous Complaints are made against my Kinsman *Reynard*, in his absence ; yet were their Actions narrowly search'd into,

To *The History of Reynard the Fox*

who make the Complaints, they would appear worse to your Majesty, than what they lay to the Fox's Charge: For tho' I pretend not in every thing to vindicate him, yet thus much I must say, touching the Accusation of this scoundrel Hound, If *Reynard* took the Pudding from him, he only deceiv'd the Deceiver; for this Thief, my Liege, stole it from me after I had ventur'd my Life for't in a Mill, by taking it thence whilst the Miller was tumbling a handsome Wench on the Sacks; and he meeting me before I could convey it to my Store-house, by purposely crossing the Way upon me, without a Word speaking, took it by Violence from me: Besides, this is long since, and seeing it was most properly mine, and I forgive my Kinsman, there can be no just ground of Indictment against him upon his Accusation, since according to the old Proverb, *To deceive the Deceiver, is no Deceit*. And further, if, without offending, I might produce Evidence, I doubt not but to prove the Wolf's Accusation malicious, and to clear the Fox in all Points.

At these last Words, the *Panther* rising from his Seat with a compos'd Countenance, said; Sir *Tibert*, you are carried too far by the Bonds of Friendship, in Vindication of  
your

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* II

your Kinsman, more than he deserves, since most know him to be a Theif and a Blood-sucker, a Destroyer of the King's peaceable Subjects, and a Hater of them all, making it his Study how to bring them into Mischiefe, and then his Pastime to insult over, and devour such as are too feeble for him, or not wise enough to shun his Craftiness; a Person altogether regardless of the King's Honour, which he would not only contemn, but suffer the utmost, for so small a thing as the Leg of a fat Hen or Goose.

And to make this more plain, I shall only instance what I was an Eye-witness of, in relation to poor *Keyward* the Hare, who now is under the King's Protection, by whose Royal Goodness he is defended from *Reynard's* Insults: This crafty Villian, *Reynard*, pretending to be in Orders, and a Chaplain, so far insinuated on the poor Hare's Belief, with a shew of Sanctity, cloaked with Hypocrisie, in hopes of satisfying his own End, that the silly Creature agreed he should teach him his *Credo*, and being by that means in his Power, he made him sit between his Legs to sing; but it had like indeed to have been his last Song, for the Fox catch'd him so fast by the Throat, that had I not been passing by, and at the Cry

rushed

12 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

rush'd in to his assistance, he had died there, and serv'd *Reynard* and his Family for a Holiday-feast. And that this, my Lord the King, is true, you may easily perceive by the yet-bleeding Wound on *Keyward's* Throat.

Therefore, may Liege, if you suffer such Outrages to go unpunish'd, it will be a Dishonour to your Royal Dignity, a manifest Violation of the Laws; and not only reflect on your self, but on your Children, that are now, or shall hereafter be begotten, and many Years to come will not be able to blot out the Slander of this Evil.

This was applauded by most, and the King by 'em intreated to execute the Laws in punishing of the Fox; but especially the Wolf urg'd it vehemently, saying, The Panther has spoke the Truth, and therefore his Advice and Council ought not to be rejected.

But whilst the King was about to give Sentence, his Eyes sparkling like Fire, and groaning within himself, so that most Beasts trembled, up started *Grimbard* the Brock, Nephew to *Reynard*; intreating, That in his Uncle's absence he might plead for him, to the Accusation laid to his Charge; which, with some difficulty, the King consented.



*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 13

sented to ; and then he proceeded in this manner :

As to the Wolf, said he, my Dread Sovereign, you cannot, I hope, but conceive in your Princely Wisdom, what he says against my Uncle proceeds only from Malice; and that, according to the old Proverb, Never speaks well ; Kings as well as meaner Persons, are not exempted from it.

Then turning to him, said, Sir *Hgrim*, notwithstanding all that you have alledg'd, I wish you durst to venture your Honesty with my Kinsman's, upon the Tryal of both your Lives, that he, who upon plain Proof and Conviction, should be found guilty of the greatest Crimes, might die in a Halter. I boldly tell you, here in the Face of the Court, and as much as you suppose you stand in the King's Favour, on such a Tryal your Guilt will appear so heinous, that if you were not asham'd to do it, it wou'd be in vain to ask Mercy : How often, with your venomous Teeth, have you maliciously worried and wounded my Kinsman, put him in peril of his Life, and defrauded him of what he labour'd and ventur'd hard for, that you might satisfy your greedy Maw ? Amongst many of which Injuries and Outrages, I shall here, for Brevity's

14 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

vity's sake, reckon up but a few: You have perhaps forgot how you cheated him of a large Plaice, which he, at the hazard of his Life, ventur'd into a Cart for, and throwing it down, you immediately took it by Violence from him, and for his share, gave him only the Bones, which you durst not eat, for fear they shou'd stick in your Throat, and made you howl, as when you implor'd the Crane's Aid, and prov'd ingrateful to her, in denying her the promis'd Reward, tho' by putting her long Neck down your Throat, she had eas'd your Misery, and in all probability sav'd you from being chok'd. At another time you serv'd my Kinsman a base fraudulent Trick, by taking from him a Flitch of Bacon, which he got out of a Chimney, not without danger of breaking his Neck; and tho' he was so kind, when he perceiv'd you almost starv'd, to offer you Part, nothing would serve you but the Whole; tho' till you came to devour the last Morsel, you all along promis'd to leave him a sufficient Share; and finding he was deluded by you, he went only away sighing, without making any just Reproach. Nor was this all, for following him at a distance, you perceiv'd he was going in search for Provision, you soon found

found he, by his Cunning, had sung a large Sow asleep, and gotten from her one of her fattest Pigs, which you likewise greedily seiz'd, tho' at his return, in hopes to get another, he was not only torn by the inrag'd Sow, but taken by the Owner in a Sack, out of which he gnaw'd his way, whilst the Peasant carried him at his Back, to have him worried in the Market-place by Mastiffs. These, and innumerable other Injuries, have you at fundry times done my Kinsman *Reynard*; wherefore you, and not he, ought to be punish'd.

And therefore I beseech his Majesty to consider these things, and to judge impartially. I confess, there is one Accusation of Sir *Issgrim's* of no weight, which is, That my Kinsman has lain with his Wife; it is very true, he has done so. but it was at her own Intreaty, and six Years before she was married; and she was so pleas'd with the Kindness he did her, that she has ever since born a tender Affection to him; and therefore it is a Folly for him to complain, who at that time had no Interest in her, as to her Honesty or Dishonesty.

The Brock had no sooner ended his Discourse, in Vindication of his Kinsman, but *Keywood the Hare*, in a pitious Tone, began

16 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

gan his Complaint in the manner as the Panther related.

To which the Brock again replied, That if the Hare would undertake to learn, and prov'd a Dunce, it was not reasonable, that *Reynard*, as his School-master, should correct him; for if Scholars have not due and moderate Correction, it is impossible there should be any capable of managing Matters in State and Religion.

Lastly, The Hound, forsooth, makes his Complaint for the loss of his Pudding; he might have behav'd himself better in his Mistress's Service, than to have been turn'd out to a desperate Fortune; besides, we hear what Sir *Tibert* says, he stole it first from him; so that had my Cousin hang'd him up when he took him, he had offended none but the King, in doing Justice without his Leave, which he forbore to do, in regard to your Majesty, as being Wise, and well understanding the Laws: Besides, how can he do amiss, who does nothing without the Advice of the Priest? He is a Gentleman, and a true Man, and since your Majesty's Proclamation for a Cessation of Hostilities, he has so far complied, that he has injur'd none, keeping his Body under by Abstinence, eating but once a Day, of-

ten



*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 17

ten chastising it, and wearing a Hair-shirt next to his Skin : and, as I have been inform'd, it is above a Year since he eat any Flesh, by those that came but very lately from him. He has forsaken his Castle of *Malepardus* for a poor Hermitage, forswearing Hunting, and all other Recreations, living by Alms, doing infinite Good, and repenting him of his Sins ; so that he is grown meager and lean, sequestering himself from Company, as one weary of the Vanities of this transitory World.

Whilst the Brock was thus labouring to excuse and vindicate *Reynard*, the whole Assembly was surpriz'd at the approach of *Chanticleer* the Cock, who, with two Hens, in a mournful manner, came down the Hill towards 'em, bringing upon a Bier a dead Hen, with her Head bitten off ; as he approach'd, he smote his Wings against his Sides in a melancholy manner, whilst the two Hens cackled out great and doleful Lamentations, each of them bearing a Taper, their Names being *Cragant* and *Tantart*, and were found to be the Daughters of *Coppel* the dead Hen. But whilst the Wonder lasted, after they had made a great Wailing, and were come before the King, the Bier was no sooner set down, but *Chanticleer* humbled

18 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

humbled himself, and crav'd Audience ;  
which being granted, he thus proceeded :

Great and just Prince, I humbly beseech  
you to hear and revenge the Injuries done  
to me by *Reynard* the Fox, as also to my  
Children : For thus, most gracious Sove-  
reign, it happen'd, that when the Spring  
appear'd in its Glory, I, by reason of the  
great Stock my Wife *Coppel* had brought  
forth, being in the height of my Pride and  
Gallantry, having then eight valliant Sons  
and seven beautiful Daughters, which  
walk'd at pleasure in a well-fenc'd Yard,  
guarded by several fierce Mastiffs, I thought  
my self the happiest of all Creatures ; but,  
alas ! my Joy was soon turn'd into Mourn-  
ing, and I cast from the height of my ima-  
gined Felicity to the depth of Misery ; for  
whilst we remain'd there fearless of Danger,  
deceitful *Reynard* came one Day (after he  
had many times attempted to leap the  
Walls in vain, and had been hunted away  
by the Mastiffs) in a religious Habit, telling  
over his Beads, and making Signs of Humi-  
lity and Devotion, he call'd to me thro'  
the Wicket in a friendly manner, shewing  
me your Majesty's Letter seal'd with your  
great Seal, wherein I found you had made  
an Universal Peace among Beasts and Fowls,  
through-

throughout your whole Empire; yet, knowing him a Dissembler, and suspecting them to be counterfeit, as I since understand they were, I at first but lightly credited him, till with many Oaths and Protestations he avowed it to be truth; and, that for his part he had done with the World, and was become a Monk, intending to take a long Pilgrimage to repent of his Sins; shewing me his Books, Beads, Hair-shirt, and all other religious Accoutrements; and persevering to affirm it with such seeming Sanctity, that I could not any longer mistrust; and being willing to walk at large, seeing him go away sighing, saying his *Credo*, and telling over his Beads, I call'd my Family about me, and inform'd 'em of the News, who were exceeding glad thereof; so that by Consent we flew over the Walls to range in the Fields; tho' I may ever rue that Day; for as we carelessly pick'd about, the Fox, who lay' behind a Bush, crept on his Belly till he came between the Wall and us, and suddenly surpriz'd one of my Soas, whom he murder'd-pack'd up, and bore away, to my unspeakable Grief; and having had so sweet a Bait, neither the Mastiffs or Hunters cou'd keep him away, till at several Surprizes,

he

20 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

he had stoln away thirteen of my Children, leaving me but two ; and yesterday, Coppel, my dear Wife, was surpriz'd by this Traytor, whose Head, as your Majesty may perceive, he bit off, and had born away her Body, but being pursued by the Hounds, he was compell'd to let her fall, and fly for his Life.

And thus your Majesty, having heard my Wrongs, I implore you, by that Justice and Compassion that reigns in your Royal Breast, to revenge 'em on the bloody-minded Reynard.

Moral.] *By this we see however wicked Men flatter 'emselves with escaping unpunish'd by hiding 'emselves from Justice ; yet it the more proves their Guilt, by imboldening, in their absence, their Enemies to complain against 'em : Which is demonstrated by the Wolf, who, as guilty as the Fox, nevertheless takes this time to make his Complaints against him ; and so gives Encouragement to others, who in all likelihood otherwise would not have done it. The Brock's pleading for the Fox, denotes, that rich Men and Flatterers, tho' never so vicious rarely want any Advocate to excuse 'em, tho' they shame 'emselves in doing it, as the Brock did, when the Cock appear'd with his fresh Complaint against the Fox, &c.*



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21 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

CHAP. II.

*How the King answer'd the Cock, and caus'd his Wife to be Buried. How Bruin the Bear was sent by the King's Command to fetch the Fox to Court; and the Trick Reynard put on him in his Search for Honey: And how the Cat was sent for him.*



**U**Pon the Complaint of *Chanticleer*, the King grew exceeding angry, and turning his Eyes on *Grimbard* the Brock, who had thus labour'd to excuse and Justifie *Reynard*, he sternly said, What think you now, Sir *Grimbard*, of this Recluse? Where is the Fox's Penitency? See how he  
has



22 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

has fasted, prayed, and mortified his Body, to your Shame, that dare to vindicate such a Traytor and Murderer. But, by my Crown, I swear, if I have Life long remaining in me, he shall dearly pay for this. But at present, Sir *Chanticleer*, all that we can do for you, is to give *Coppel* your dear Wife honourable Burial, which shall be at my Charge. And in the mean time, I will call a Council, to consider of Ways and Methods to do you Justice and Right against her Murderer. Whereupon he appointed the Goat and Ram to sing Mass at the Interment of *Coppel*, and that great Mourning should be made over her ; so, upon this the Bier was taken up, and carried before the Cock and his two Daughters, who follow'd in Mourning-hoods, attended by many other Courtiers, making a doleful Lamentation.

*Coppel, Chanticleer's dear Wife,  
Who by a Traytor lost her Life ;  
Pray come with him, you to weep are able,  
For her, whose unjust Death was lamentable.*

Whilst these Things pass'd, the King was at close Council with his Nobles, consulting how he might bring the Fox to deserv'd



Punishment ; and, after some Debates, it was concluded, he should be immediately sent for, to make his personal Appearance before the King, without any Excuse to Delay, there to answer such Matters as he stands charg'd with ; and that Sir *Bruin* the Bear should deliver him the Summons, seal'd with the King's Signet ; whereupon the King call'd him in him, saying,

Sir *Bruin*, it is our Pleasure you carry this Mandate to *Reynard* ; but, withal, I advise you beware of him, for he is full of Policy, being a Craft-master at Flattery and Dissimulation, lest he betray you into Snares and Intanglements, and bring you to Scorn or Mockery ; therefore let me advise you not to rely upon your Strength too much, but use Policy and Caution, that you may return in Safety and Honour.

The Bear hearing this, and that the Trust of fetching *Reynard* to Court, was repos'd in him, could not refrain laughing to himself, a while, for the hopes he expected of being reveng'd on him ; and boldly made this Reply to the King : My Lord, said he, let me alone with the Fox, I have Discretion enough to deal with him ; I shall defeat his Designs, and baffle all Pretensions he can have on me. And so the Bear departed  
that

24 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

that Night, that he might be going early in the Morning onwards of his Journey towards *Malepardus*.

The next Morning, Sir *Bruin*, taking the King's Letter with him, set forward, passing over Mountains and thro' many thick Forests, till he came to *Reynard's* chief Castle, when scorning to go in, but resolving *Reynard* should do him the Honour to come and wait on him without, sitting on his Tail before the Gate, he lifted up his Voice, saying, *Reynard*, come forth to me, your Kinsman *Bruin*, who am come with the King's Mandate, to summon you to Court, to answer the Complaints there laid to your Charge; therefore I advise you, in a friendly manner, to come forth and go along with me, thereby to shun the Danger, that, for the Contempt of Royal Authority, ... further befall you.

The Fox heard this, but made no answer, till he had consulted how to be reveng'd on the Bear, whom he well-knew had no Love for him, but was rather his mortal Enemy; and having cast several things in his mind, whilst the Bear lay clamouring again for him to come out, he immediately threw open the Gates, and embracing him, said,

Dear Uncle *Bruin*, I am over-joy'd to see you;

you ; pardon, I pray you, my slowness of coming, for when you first began to call, I was in the middle of my Evening-song; and Devotion, you know, must be minded before all other Business. Truly you sweat, Uncle, and seem much tir'd, pray enter in and rest you ; Cou'd the King, in all his Court, sent no meaner a Servant than your noble Self (who is both Rich, and Wise, and Powerful, nearly ally'd to him in Blood) on such an unworthy Errand ? I am exceeding sorry for it ; but if he had not sent, I intended to have been at Court to Morrow ; However, dear Uncle, since you are come, the hope of good Council I expect from you, much lessens the Weight of my Dread ; only what grieves me is, I fear in accompanying you I shall be tedious to you, my Body is so much distemper'd since I have left off eating Flesh, and betaken me to a new Diet, which has grievously swell'd me.

What Meat is that, Nephew ? said the Bear.

Alas, reply'd *Reynard*, it is of so poor a sort, that it signifies nothing for me to tell it to you ; you eat of the daintiest and most costly Fare : However, notwithstanding this Excuse, which the Fox purposely

26 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

made, to make the Bear more eager to know it; he pressing him to declare what it was, *Reynard* told him it was Honey, of which he had found such abundance, that it could not, but in a long time, be exhausted. This made the Bear hug himself in Joy, for there is nothing in the World, that that Creature loves more than Honey, so that many times they run the hazard of their Eyes being stung out in rifling the Treasure, both of the wild and tame Bees, by unadvisedly thrusting their Heads in among 'em, when the little Creatures, finding the Bears shagged Skin impenetrable by their short Weapons, cluster about their Eyes, Nose, and Mouth, and sting them in a furious manner.

The remembrance of this, however; did not frighten Sir *Bruin*, for without asking whether it was in Hives or Trees, he instantly imbrac'd the Fox, telling him, if he would help him to as much of that lordly Fare as would suffice him, he would be his Friend for ever, and stand by him against his greatest Enemies, till he had made them silent and asham'd of their Accusations.

Upon this, the Fox having consider'd how to lay a Trap for the credulous Bear, tho' he had been per-admonish'd by his Sovereign

vereign, to beware of his Wiles, found an easy Advantage herein ; for remembering that when he had stole a Pullet in *Lanfret*, the Carpenters Yard, the Night before, he perceiv'd two Wedges sticking in a mighty Oak, which being about the middle, divided one end to a great wideness ; and, thought he, if I get the Bear to put in his Head, that I might draw out the Wedges and catch him by the Ears, I should make fine Sport.

Whilst *Reynard* was musing on this Project, the Bear lay urging him to declare where this Treasure was ; which, he said, were he a King, he would give his Crown and Kingdom to be possessed of.

Why, truly Uncle, said *Reynard*, not to keep you much longer from what you desire, if I thought you were in earnest, I could conduct you to the Yard, where is no less there than ten Tun.

Aye ; but are you in earnest, dear Cousin ? said the Bear.

Why do you think, said *Reynard*, I jest in this Matter ?

No, no, dear Nephew ; come along ; oblige me in this, and bind me to you for ever.

So away they went together, the Bear in expectation, and the Fox laughing in his Sleeve.



*The History of Reynard the Fox.*  
Sleeve, to think how finely he should fool his Great-uncle; travelling together in divers Discourses till they came within sight of the House, which *Reynard* no sooner shew'd to *Bruin*, but he exceedingly rejoyc'd; and as they approach'd it, the Fox said to him in Derision, Pray, Uncle, be moderate in eating, for such luscious Meat will put you into a Surfeit.

Let me alone for that, said the Bear; I warrant you I know well enough how to govern my Appetite.

Well, said the Fox, Uncle, I know you are discreet; and leave it to you.

By this Time they were come into the Yard, where the Fox shew'd him the Cleft of the Tree, telling him, there were some part of the Honey; which, when he had dispatch'd, he would shew him more. The Bear, greedy of the Morsel, not mistrusting the Treachery of his Kinsman, thrust in his Head and Fore-feet; but whilst he was searching about, *Reynard* pull'd out the Wedges, and catch'd him in the Cleft.

The Bear, finding himself thus unexpectedly surpriz'd, thro' Shame and Pain, roar'd out most hideously, so that he rais'd not only the Carpenter's Family, but upon their Cry, the Village; who came running with

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 29

with Staves, Clubs, and all sorts of Weapons ; and, among the rest, Dame *Jollock*, the Parson's Wife, came running with her Distaff in her Hand ; so that poor Sir *Bruin* was extreamly belabour'd, whilst the Fox stood at a Distance, fleering and scoffing at his Calamity : But finding his Life in in danger by the Blows that were laid on him, he put too all his Strength, and with much struggling rent his Head and Feet out of the Cleft ; yet with the loss of his Ears, part of the Skin of his Face, and most of that of his Feet : whose bloody Face, and furious Teeth, frightening the whole Assembly, they parted in a Lane, and gave way for him ; yet follow'd, as soon as he was pass'd, with might Stroaks, till the Bear making to the River plung'd into it, and by the force of his Body, threw Dame *Jollock* and some others into the Water, where they floated like Shittle-cocks ; to whose Relief the Priest, and others came running ; the Former offering a full Pardon and Indulgence for seven Years to come, to any that would save Dame *Jollock* ; so, at last, this occasion'd the saving of them all, and prov'd a Kindness to Sir *Bruin* ; for whilst they were busy about it, he had swam a League down the River with the

30 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

Current; and then got on Land, to be-  
moan his unadvis'd trusting the Fox, after  
he had been forewarn'd about it; but as  
it happen'd he landed on the same side  
the Fox was on, who had just then stole a  
Hen out of a Farm-yard, and was going  
home with great Joy; concluding *Bruin* was  
dead of the Effusion of Blood that flow'd  
from him, and the mighty Blows he had  
receiv'd: but when he saw him there, he  
was extreamly griev'd, yet he resolv'd to  
scoff him, thereby to encrease his Misery,  
saying, How now, Uncle? it seems you would  
not take my Advice, but have over-eat your  
self; see what comes of Greediness; now,  
perhaps you may fall into a Surfeit, and  
complain of me at Court; tho' what I did  
was well meant, and at your earnest Desire.

A Plague take you, reply'd Sir *Bruin*, for  
your Kindness; was I able to catch you,  
you should dearly pay for this Trick you  
have put upon me: Fool that I was, to be-  
lieve a profess'd Villian, especial'y when I  
had so much Warning before-hand; but I  
hope to live to revenge this Treachery.

Well, said the Fox, that you must plot;  
and so fare you well.

The Bear was more grieved at these  
Taunts than at his Wounds, tho' the Blood

ran

ran furiously from his Face and Feet ; but finding no Remedy, after many Groanings, he threw himself in the River again, and swam to the other side, where landing, and not being able to use his Fore-feet to go, he tumbled over Head and Heels, till he came to the Court.

The Lyon no sooner saw him in this Condition, but he suspected some Treachery ; and demanded who durst so misuse him : Sir *Bruin* having taken Breath, roared out, in a piteous Tone, O my Lord, revenge me of this wicked Villian, *Reynard*, who has done me all this Injury and Disgrace. Then he proceeded to tell the whole Story of his Misfortune, as it had beset him.

The Royal Lyon hearing this Relation, groan'd within him for Anger, saying, How durst that Villian be so hardy, as thus to abuse my Messenger, and one of so noble a Rank ? By my self, I swear, it shall be retaliated with the bloodiest Revenge that ever Traytor suffer'd, as a Warning to all others.

Then he call'd a Council, to devise how to bring his Purposes about ; and after many Debates, it was concluded he should be summoned to appear ; else to be Outlaw'd for High Treason on his Refusal, and all his Honours and Estate confiscated.

Then they order'd, that Sir *Tybert* the Cat, who was wise and judicious, should be sent to fetch him to Court; who being call'd, and having before pleaded in *Reynard's* behalf, against the Complaint of *Curtis* the Hound, would fain have excus'd this Undertaking; but the King's Injunction being strickly laid on him to perform it, he obey'd; only saying, That if the Bear, who was of mighty Strength, had been so abus'd by him, it was not likely but his Misfortunes would be greater, as being weak; and that those who advis'd his Majesty to send him, were his Enemies.

However, Sir *Tybert* went with his Summons, and being on his way, a Swallow flew towards him, which is one of St. *Martin's* Birds, which he intreated to turn on the right Hand, but the Bird turn'd on the left, which he thought an ill Augury; yet went with heavy Cheer, till he came to *Malepardus*, where he found *Reynard* sitting before the Gate, to whom he produced his Summons.

The Fox hereupon welcom'd him with all the Blandishments and Flatteries imaginable, saying, I will obey it: Yet, said he, dear Cousin *Tybert*, after your great Travel; let me intreat you to enter my poor House

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*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 33

House and refresh yourself with such Provisions as I have, which are, indeed, but mean; and in the Morning I will go with you, for you I dearly love, and can trust; the Bear indeed was with me, but used such brutish Rudeness, that I was afraid to accompany him, lest he should destroy me by the way: but as for you, I know you to be wise, learned, and good-natur'd; so that were I labouring under any Disease, I would put forth all my Strength to accompany you.

Well, said *Tybert*, I believe you; but I remember a little while since, you were talking of Provision, I must confess my tedious Journey has rais'd an Appetite in me, pray Cousin, what have you got to eat.

Truly, replied *Reynard*, I am but slenderly provided at this time, my best Fare is only a few Honey-combs and to those you shall be heartily welcome.

Alas, said *Sir Tybert*, that's Meat too dainty and luscious for me; besides, I'm not us'd to eat of it; but if you cou'd help me to half a dozen Mice, you would infinitely oblige me, and make me your Servant for ever,

Mice, replied *Reynard*, love you them so well? sure you are but in Jest, but if in Earnest, take no farther care, for here's a Priest

34. *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

that has a Barn hard by, where they swarm in such abundance, that you and all your Kindred are not able to destroy them.

Well, said *Tybert*, lead me to the Place where these Delicates are, and you shall find how faithful I will ever be to you.

Follow me then, said the Fox; and so together they went to the Barn.

Now it had so fallen out, that the Fox, the Night before, had stolen a fat Hen, and the Priest, in hopes to take him at his next coming, had placed a Gin at the entrance of the Hole, of this he was aware, and laugh'd to himself to think how the Cat would be noos'd in it; saying, Hark, Sir *Tybert*, how they squeak; here's the Hole, enter in, and you will not fail of having your Belly full in a few Minutes; in the mean while I will stay and watch without, that none come to interrupt you. But dear Cousin, be not too tedious, for I know my Wife will be impatient to see and embrace you.

Aye, but, said the Cat, do you imagine I may safely enter at this Hole? These Priests are crafty Fellows, and couch Danger in the most seeming Places of Security.

O! ne'er fear it, said the Fox: Why, what will you turn Coward, and be faint-hearted? I ne'er perceiv'd this Timerous-  
ness

ness in you before ; in Man, in, and fear no Danger.

Upon this the Cat sprung in, and was immediately taken in the Gin, which Danger he no sooner perceived, but he would a sprung out again, which drew it so close, that he was almost strangl'd, struggling and crying out bitterly: All this while, *Reynard* was a Looker on, greatly rejoycing and scoffing in this manner: Hah, Cousin *Tybert*, have you laid hold on the Mice? I hope th y ate fat, for your sake; methinks you sing merrily at your Meat; Pray is it the Court-fashion? If the Priest knew you was there, he would afford you such Sauce to your Meat, the like you never tasted before: I wish the Wolf was here, and coupi'd with you, then your Mewing and his Howling, would make a curious Comfort for the Bear to dance to.

The Cat all this while, making a flouncing to and fro, to get loose, awak'd the Parson; who, supposing it had been the Fox that had been taken, alarm'd his whole Family, and ordering Dame *Jollock*, his Wife, to light up an Offering-candle, he leap'd out of Bed, and run down Stairs, being follow'd by *Martinet* his Son, and others, who laid so unmercifully on *Tybert*,  
thare

that they not only wofully bruis'd him, but *Martinet*, thinking at one Blow to deprive him of Life, beat out one of his Eyes, which the Cat perceiving, and finding what danger he was in, taking a desperate Leap between the naked Prielt's Legs, with his Claws and Teeth caught hold of his Genitals, and brought 'em clear away, which made him a perfect Eunuch ; this Dame *Jollock* seeing, cry'd out most pitiously, and swore she had rather have lost ten Years Offerings, than one small Morsel of those precious Jewels ; cursing her hard Misfortune, and the time that ever the Gin was plac'd there, to occasion this Loss and Sorrow ; saying to her Son, See *Martinet*, thy Father's Delighe, and my Jewel, taken away by the cursed Cat, so that now it is quite spoil'd ; and tho' he may be recover'd, and live long, yet he can never be recover'd to my Satisfaction, or be any ways useful to me ; but it is spoil'd to his Shame, and my utter Loss ; O Woe is me !

Whilst she thus lamented, the Parson fell down in a Swoond ; while *Reynard* lay fleering at a distance, saying, Dame *Jollock*, be not so griev'd, there is many a Chapel has but one Bell in it, and that is sufficient to call the good Wiyes together : here is something

yet

yet left, therefore be not so discontented.

Now it so happen'd, whilst they were reviving the Priest from the Swound his Pain and Anguish had put him into, one rubbing his Temples, another running for Holy-water to sprinkle his Face, and the rest very busy about him, that Sir *Tybert* took the opportunity to gawn the Cord in sunder, and give 'em the slip; which the Fox seeing, much griev'd that he had escap'd; he rerurning to *Melapardus*, and the Cat, in that miserable plight, to the Court, there to complain of *Reynard's* Treachery.

The King was exceedingly enrag'd upon hearing and beholding what had happen'd to his second Messenger, thro' the Fox's Villany, vowing a cruel Revenge, and call'd a Council how to contrive it, so that he might be brought to speedy Justice. But here *Grimbard* the Brock, *Reynard's* Kinsman, once more persum'd to interpose on his behalf: saying, May it please my Lord, Tho' my Uncle were more Wicked than these Complaints make him, yet there are sufficient Remedies against his Mischiefs: Therefore if you proceed to Justice, I beseech your Majesty it may be done as appertains to one of his Rank, which is, to give him a third Summons, and then, upon his



38 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

his Refusal to Appear, you may pronounce Judgment and Sentence of Death against him.

Upon this the King sternly demanded of the Brock, if he knew any one that would trust him, seeing two of his faithful Servants had been betray'd already to the hazard of their Lives.

That will I, said *Grimbard*, if your Highness pleases to command it; and no doubt but I shall bring him with me.

Then the King ordered him to prepare for his Journey; and above all things, to take heed to his Safety: and so the Council broke up.

*Moral.] This sheweth, that the Brock being disgrac'd for standing up for his Kinsman, gave not over to vindicate him; so some Men, innocent 'emselves, think all so, and run 'emselves into Hazards, by vindicating their vicious Actions. The King's decently burying the Hen, shew the Effects of a good Disposition to the Injured, in giving what present Satisfaction they can. In the Bear's Readiness to fetch the Fox, we find those that hate us, will take hold of any Advantage to do us Mischief, tho' they run a Hazard in doing it; as we find by his being intrapped by the Fox's Cunning, with a feigned Bait of Honey.*

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*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 39

ney. By the Cat's going unwillingly, signifies Prudence not to venture upon an Undertaking against cunning crafty Men, lest we be unadvisedly ensnared, as the Cat was in hopes of Mice.

C H A P. III.

*How Grimbard the Brock was sent to command the Fox to come to Court; how he consented to come, and was Shriever by him; and the Excuse he made before the King of the Crimes laid to his Charge; whereupon he was condemn'd to be hang'd; with the Confession he made.*



**E**Arly the next Morning Grimbard, the Brock, took leave of the King, and went on his Journey to *Malepardus*, where he

40 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

he found *Reynard* and *Ermilin* his Wife playing with their Young ; and when they had saluted one another, he said, Dear Uncle, take heed to your self, almost ever one at Court is against you, and your Death will certainly ensue, with those of your Wife and Children; also the Destruction of this your fair Palace and other Edifices, if you speedily appear not to vindicate your self ; which if you do, upon this third Summons, you will foil your Adversaries, and put 'em to Silence ; for you know better how to plead your own Cause then any one ; you have pass'd thro' many Dangers, and came off with Safety : then do not incense the King in standing out, but go along with me.

I fear not, replied *Reynard*, and therefore will go to Court ; not to answer to Crimes, but because I know it stands in need of my Council ; nor do I doubt to make my Defence, and shame my Accusers.

Accusers, indeed, in Men absence are bold, said the Brock, but when they come Face to Face, they have little to say to 'em.

Hereupon *Reynard*, being about to depart, address'd him to his Wife, saying, Dame *Ermilin*, take care of my Children, *Reynardine* and *Rossel*, and doubt not, but, if I escape, I shall make quick return to you.

Then

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 41

Then he took his leave, and went with the Brock, leaving them Weeping, and in great Heaviness for his Departure.

*Reynard* and *Grimbard* had not gone above a Mile on their way, before the Fox sigh'd grievously, and appear'd very pen-sive; of which Alteration the Brock demanding the Reason, the Fox fetching a deeper Sigh than before, replied, Dear Nephew, since I am going to venture my Life, and some things lie heave on my Con-science, it is but reasonable to disburthen myself of 'em, and confess 'em to you, that so, according to your Wisdom, you being in Orders, may absolve me of them, that I may speak the more boldly, when I come to make my Defence.

Content, said the Brock, so that for the future you'll become a true Penitent.

This the Fox promis'd, and began to make his Confession: I have, said he, grievously offended against almost all Creatures: *Bruin* the Bear, was brought near unto Death by me; *Tybert* the Cat I likewise shar-ed, and caus'd to lose his Eye; *Chanticleer* I have abused, and devoured many of his Children; nay the King and Queen have not been free from my Malice; the Wolf I have injur'd many ways, calling him Un-  
cle;

cle, the better to delude him into Danger, tho' he is not any ways akin to me, no part of his filthy Blood running in my Veins; however, by this Decoy, I gain'd so upon his Easiness, as to make him believe he was exceeding learned, and that I would prefer him to be a Parish clerk, which he joyfully hearkening to, I told him, the first Step to it was to toll the Bell : Well, he desired me that I would teach him to do it ; so finding one Day the Chappel-door carelessly left open, I fasten'd his Foot to a Bell-rope, when making a Jangling with the Bell, the Village rose upon him and almost murder'd him ; I taught him to catch Fish with his Tail in the frosty Weather ; and led him to a rich Priest's House to steal Bacon, where feeding so unreasonably that he could not get out at the Hole he entered, I snatch'd a Hen from the Priest's Table and running away with it, dropt it where the Wolf was, where my Pursuers found him, and having, as they thought, beat him to Death, they dragg'd him out and threw him into a Ditch ; where notwithstanding, he revived, and crawl'd home with broken Bones, cursing me all the way ; But the more the Fox is curs'd, the better he thrives ; for I catch'd by the way



*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 43

way a Stubble-goose, and putting her up into my Mail, went to *Malepardus*, and made merry with my Wife and Children: Another time I led him to a Place where I told him, there was seven Hens and a Cock, which indeed there was before I had stole 'em, and convey'd them to my Den, and there I thrust him on a Trap-door, so that he fell down into the House many Stories, raised the Family, who crying out, *The Wolf, the Wolf*, rose with Tongs and Shovels, and so belabour'd him, that had he not escaped at a Door, left open by Carelessness, they had there ended his Life. Thus at sundry times I've brought him to the Brink of the Grave: yet, like a true Fox, can deny it upon the account of any Danger to my self, as confidently as if I had never seen him in all my Life: I have offended Dame *Arsewind* his Wife, of which I must likewise repent, tho' I am now ashamed before you, who are a very modest Person, to express the manner of it.

Nay, said *Grimbard*, if you make your Shrift imperfectly, I know not how to allow your Pennance, and absolve you.

Truly, reply'd the Fox, I've often lain with her; first by force, when I perswaded her to thrust her Head and Fore-feet into

44 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*  
a Yoak, telling her it was a Nun's Veil  
and that I'd teach her to sing her *Ave Mary*  
and afterwaads often by her Consent, since  
she has been married to *Isgrim*; and now  
I've told you all; order me my Pennance,

Well, said *Grimbard*, break of that Ha-  
zel-wand with your Teeth. Which the Fox  
readily did; then said the Brock, Give  
yourself three Stripes on the Body. With  
this he also complied; then said the Brock  
Lay it down and leap over it, without  
bowing your Legs thrice. This he did  
likewise. Now, said *Grimbard*, there re-  
mains but one thing more, and I absolve  
you, and that is, take it up and kiss it gently,  
in token of your Repentance and Humi-  
lity.

This done, the Brock absolved him of  
his Murders, Thefts and other Crimes to  
that Day: So that the Fox exceedingly re-  
joyced, not that he fancied it signified any  
thing, but that it being told at Court,  
might stand him in stead with the Over-  
credulous, and beget in them a better O-  
pinion of him for the future. Yet for all  
this, *Reynard* could not long dissemble, for  
as they passed by a Nunnery where many  
Geese and Pullen were straggling on the  
Common, he leap'd at a fat Hen, but she  
struggled

struggled and got away from him, leaving  
him only his Mouth full of Feathers ; for  
which the Brock extreamly chid him, put-  
ting him in mind of what he had lately pro-  
mised ; but it signified little, for till they  
were out of sight, he looked back and kept  
his Eyes on them, his Chops watring after  
so dainty a Morfel ; for which, when the  
Brock again chid him; he replied,

Dear Nephew, you do me Injury, for I  
was only looking towards yon holy Place,  
and saying a *Placedo* for all the Souls of the  
Hens, Geese, Ducks, &c. that have been  
wounded and devoured by me.

Ah, said *Grimbard*, I am afraid you are  
of the Nature of the Cat in the Fable, whom  
a young Man so intirely loved, that he  
prayed in the Temple of *Venus*, till, for his  
sake, the Goddess turned her into a Wo-  
man ; but no sooner was she in Bed with  
her Bridegroom, in the height of Joy and  
Delight, but seeing a Mouse on the Floor,  
he leaped from her Husband's Arms to  
pursue her, forgetting how she was chang-  
ed and designed for other things ; which so  
enraged *Venus*, that she transformed her a-  
gain into her former Likeness. You are  
wise, Uncle, and can make a Moral Con-  
struction of this; fit to be applied to your  
present

46 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*  
present Circumstance; therefore be cautious, and well consider your Ways for the future.

Whilst this Discourse continued, they came within sight of the Court, which made *Reynard* tremble; however, he resolv'd to face the Storm; and so, with the Porter's leave, they entered the Gates of the Royal Palace of *Sanden*.

No sooner was the Fox's Arrival known, but all the Beasts whom he had injur'd prepared to exhibit their Complaints against him, but as he passed thro' Troops of 'em, he kept his Countenance, without any sign of Fear, or Regard of their threatening Looks, as if he had been the innocentest Creature in the World. When he came before the King, who sat in a Chair of State, his Queen on the right Hand, and his Counsellors about him, he fell on his Knees, craving the Blessing of Heaven and Earth on their Majesties and all their Royal Progeny, wishing them Success, Health and Victory, with many other flattering Expressions, to curry Favour; but they were little minded by any, as knowing they proceeded rather from Fear than Reverence or Respect; however, he thus craftily began to excuse himself:

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 47

I do not doubt, molt gracious Sovereign, that tho' I am the truest of all Servants to your Majesty, yet I am envied for it by many in this Court, who labour to rise by my fall; yet tho' Flatterers always lurk in Princes Courts with their false Tales, and set speeches, to abuse Royal Ears, yet your Majesty is known to be of a more discerning Judgment than so to be imposed on; therefore I doubt not but those who would abuse you with unjust Complaints against me your faithful Servant, will be brought to deserved Shame.

He would have proceeded, but the King angrily interrupting him, said, Hold your peace, Traytor; I know, by Dissimulation and fair Speeches you would evade your punishment, and lay Crimes to the Charge of others; but your Blandishments will not now avail you, you have too often deceived me, and broken the Peace I strictly commanded to be inviolably kept.

Then all present began to cry out against the Fox of the several Injuries he had done them; but the Lyon commanded Silence, and thus proceeded: Thou wicked Wretch, dost thou see how many accuse thee? andarest thou pretend to be Innocent? With what Face canst thou say thou art my faithful



48 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

faithful Servant, since so often you have wilfully broken my Commands? But a severe Punishment hangs over thy Head.

*Alas replied the Fox, I see many powerful Enemies here, who, by their rash Unadvisedness, or covetous Inclinations, have rushed into Misfortunes, and now are prepared with Malice enough to lay the Fault on me: Could I help it, if Sir Bruin got a bloody Pate by his greedy Search after Honey in the Carpenter's Yard? Had he had any regard of your Majesty's Affairs, he would have immediately returned to give an Account of his Errand, and not, by preferring his own Advantage, fallen into the Hands of Men who so misused him. As for the Cat, his Fault was the same, to prefer a few silly Mice before your Interest, or the Regards of your Commands; and tho' being took in the Priest's Barn in a Gin, he lost an Eye, yet by biting off the Priest's Genitals, he has disappointed all the young Women in the Parish, who used to be refreshed with that most comfortable Morsel: These Injuries the Bear and Cat received, were none of my Offence it is plain, but sought by themselves. But you, my gracious Lord, may do your Pleasure with your humble Slave who has no other Hope against such powerful Opponents, but in your Royal Clemency, tho' my Death is too mean a Sacrifice for your Anger, and can yield you little Profit; yet*

*what-*

whatever you determine, I shall patiently submit to.

When *Reynard* had proceeded thus far, *Bellin* the Ram, and *Oseway* the Ewe, stept from among the Crowd, and humbly besought the King, that they might have a fair Hearing; and so did some hundreds more who had been injured by him, all with one Cry imploring Justice against him. This made *Reynard* look pale, especially when he found the King was no longer to be won on his side, for he caused him immediately to be arrested, and upon plain Proof of many notorious Crimes, by several credible Witnesses against him, Sentence was passed upon him, That he should be executed on a Pair of Gallows of twenty Foot high; which Sentence was immediately recorded.

This made Sir *Reynard* look very melancholy and dejected, especially because the King had strictly commanded, that none of his Friends should interceed for his Pardon; but his Enemies greatly rejoyced, as not doubting but they should now be revenged on him; which made the Brock, and others of his Blood, seeing they could do him no Good, retire from Court, discontented, which the King observing, said to his Council, *It is needful that we take mature De-*  
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liberation

liberation on this weighty Matter ; For the Fox has Faults, that have created him many Enemies, yet I perceive his Virtue has chain'd to him close many fast Friends.

Whilst the King was thus discoursing, the Cat, impatient of Revenge, urg'd the Wolf and the Bear to hasten *Reynard's* Execution, alledging, the Night was at hand, and then he would give them the slip, and escape into some Hole, Bush or Brake, where they should not, without great Difficulty, if at all, recover him : Besides, Sir *Isgrim*, consider it was by his means your two Brothers were hang'd some Years since, where the Gallows is yet standing ; let us convey him thither.

At this Reproach *Isgrim* grew very angry, yet resolved to be reveng'd ; they lead him (the Bear before and the Wolf behind ) to the place of Execution, where *Tybert*, who was appointed Hangman, had got with the coozed Rope ; and there when the King, Queen, and Nobles had plac'd them on scaffolds, to see his last, they rais'd the ladder, and the Cat let him to the middle with the Rope about his Neck ; when turning to that side the King and Queen stood on, he said, *Now I am in great Sorrow, surrounded with the Terrors of Death, tho' I have*

The History of Reynard the Fox. 51

I have seen my Father die this way with much gentleness, yet as a poor dying Wretch, all I treat is, That I may disburthen my Conscience, and open the Secrets of my Heart, to die with the more Ease, that I may not be disturbed in my Grave, by going out of the World with any thing that may be burthensome to my Conscience.

This Request was thought reasonable by all, and the King thereupon giving Reynard leave to speak; after fetching a deep sigh, he thus proceeded: *Alas! I see few here whom I have not offended in a grievous manner, for in my Youth I was accounted Vertuous; but playing with Lambs, at last I fortunated to bite him, and tasting the sweetness of his Blood, I could not forbear till I had murdered many, this carried me likewise among the Goats, to destroy any of their Kids, then I fell upon Hens, Geese, &c. and so by degrees my Crimes encreased to greater matters, till roving in the Winter, I met with Sir Isgrim, who lay in a hollow Tree most famish'd, and made him believe he was my Uncle, declaring unto him my Pedigree, so that he seem'd to be very glad of his Kindred; and from that Day (which I am bound to curse) struck a League of Friendship with him, and together murdered many of your noble Subjects, the lesser not being sufficient for his hungry Maw, as, Bucks, Does, Rams, Ewes, and*

52 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

*the like ; of which I had, to my present Grief, but a very slender Share ; not that I wanted it, but to see his Ingratitude, who set for him all Game ; for then I had, and still have, more Treasure then ten Carts can carry.*

When the King heard him speak of such great Riches, he interrupted him, and commanded him to declare how he came by it ; as being desirous to be possessed of it : To which the Fox replied, *My Lord, this Wealth indeed was stole, and had it not been so it had cost you your Life, which Heaven defend from the bloody Designs of your Enemies.* When the Queen heard him say so, she started, saying,

*Reynard, I command you to conceal nothing of this dangerous Conspiracy against the Life of my dear Lord.*

*To which he replied, Most gracious Lady, I think it well becomes me, in this case, to disburthen my Conscience, that I may go out of the World with more Peace of Mind : Certain it is that the King should have been murdered by his own Subjects ; and tho' many of the Conspirators are my near Kindred, yet, as a dying Wretch, for whom no hopes of Life do remain, I will not spare to discover 'em for the publick Good, in the Preservation of your Majesties, who had e'er this time been deposed and murdered, had it not been prevented by my means ; and hereupon he*  
looked



looked so pitifully, that the Queen entreated the King, that the Fox might have Liberty to make the matter more plain; which being granted, and Silence commanded, he again proceeded.

*Some Years since my Father searching the Earth in a strange Wilderness, happen'd to find the Treasure of King Ermerick, consisting of Jewels, Silver, Gold and other rich things, whereupon he grew proud, and held in Contempt all the Beasts of the Forest; then calling Sir Tybert to him, he ordered him to go to the Forest of Arden, and seek out Sir Bruin, with Letters, wherein he acquainted him with his good Fortune, and tendered his Fealty to him, saying, If he should come to him, he would make him King and set your Royal Crown upon his Head; which he, who is the most ambitious of all Creatures, delayed not to come, and then they sent for Grimbard my Nephew, and Isgrim, and many others, so that the Conspiracy grew strong, and divers were sent out to levy Forces to be paid with the Treasure my Father had found, which they secretly listed in great Numbers, throughout your Dominions; but while they thought to bring their wicked Purposes to an Issue, Grimbard, at one of their Feasts being fluster'd with Wine, declared all to Dame Slopard his Wife, and tho' he commanded her Secresie on*

Pain of her Life, yet, affrighted at such horrid Treasons, she could not long conceal it, but told all to my Wife Ermelin, as they were passing over a Heath, saying their *Ava Maria*; and tho' she swore her to Secrecie by the three Kings of Cullen, yet she could not refrain to reveal to me in a great Consternation: Nor was I astonish'd when I heard it, my Heart sunk down as cold as Lead; yet I made it my Business to Counter-plot my Father, and so narrowly watch him, to find where his Treasure lay, (and preserve your Majesty) that one Day I see him come out of a Hole, looking every Way, to see the Coach clear, and I being unseen of him, he threw up the Earth, and smooch'd it over with his Tail going immediately to the Conspirators, to tell 'em all was safe.

The Night was no sooner come, but I brought my Wife and Children to the Place, and with infinite Labour we remov'd it to another Place, which Loss, when my Father came to understand, not knowing how to recover it again, he, through Shame, Anger, and Vexation, hang'd himself, which I contentedly could behold, for the Preservation of your Majesties Lives; for when they first heard of this Disaster, and the Loss of the Treasure that should pay their Forces, they disbanded their Armies, and broke up their Conjunction with great Confusion.

Thus

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 55

Thus, by my Policy, the Bear was frustrated from placing himself in your Royal Throne, tho' from this good Service to your Crown and Dignity sprung all my Miseries, by making myself such potent Enemies, whose Malice has persecuted me to the Gates of Death, whilst they, who would have destroyed you, are of your Privy Council, trampling on me who am fallen into Misery and Disgrace, for doing that, which by my Allegiance I was bound to do. And here he ended very sad and pensive, tho' in his Mind he was otherways, as knowing this feigned Story would work his Deliverance, and gain Advantage over his Enemies.

**Moral ]** By the Brock's being sent, shews when others are endanger'd, to try such as the vicious Party has a Kindness for, or will appear in his Vindication, that they may either prevail, or run the Hazard of their own Folly. His Shrift to him, shews Hypocrisie, and a seeming Religion when in Danger, that those who are innocent may pity and stand by 'em, being deceived by their specious Pretences of reforming their Lives, yet are so habitually wicked, they cannot long conceal it, as appears by the Fox's catching at the Capon, &c. His Excuses at Court, shews when Men are in Danger, they will not stick at any Falshood to free themselves, as by the Fox's feigned Treas-  
CHAP.

## CHAP. IV.

*How the King credited him, and caused him to be taken from the Gallows, whereupon he vowed a Pilgrimage; and brought the Bear and Wolf into great Distress, and was himself highly honoured: How he murdered Keyward the Hare, and sent his Head to the King by Billin the Ram, who was thereupon given to the Bear and Wolf to be slain, &c.*



**T**HE Fox by his dissembling Speech having possessed the King with hopes of gaining vast Sums of Treasure, and how he had befriended him in preventing the Treachery designed against him, he caused him

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 57

him immediately to be taken down from the Gallows, and questioned him where the great Riches he spoke of was, who told him it was hid by him in a Wilderness call'd *Hulsterlo*, under the bottom of a Beech-tree, by the side of the River *Creckney-pet*, that runs thro' the Wilderness. At this the Lion stared on him, as if he believed it not; saying, he had heard of most Places in the World, as well Cities and Towns, as Forests and Rivers, but never heard of these. O my Lord, replied the Fox, as I am a dying Creature, unless your Mercy be extended to me, it is certainly true; and if my Words gain no belief, even *Keyword* the Hare, tho' he declares himself, without Cause my Enemy, if he be sworn, will give you an Account of the Wilderness and River. Then was *Keyword* call'd and put to his Oath to answer nothing but the Truth to such Questions as should be demanded of him. Then said the Fox, *Keyword*, let not Prejudice hinder you to answer my Question, Know you *Creckney-pit*? Yes, very well, replied the Hare, it is a great River that runs thro' the Wilderness of *Hulsterlo*, where Father *Simony* the Monk, was taken coming false Money, many Years before *Ringwood* the Hound and I



scrap'd Acquaintance : I may well remember it, for there I have endured many bitter Winters. Upon giving this Testimony he was ordered to withdraw. Then said the Fox, May my Relation be now credited ? Yes, *Reynard*, said the King, and I intreat you to excuse my Jealousie, which could not beless, since you have so many times deceived me ; but, however, it will be convenient that you go with me, and shew me the Place. Alas, said *Reynard*, I should be proud to attend upon your Majesty, and the willingest Creature in the World to do it, had I not Yesterday made a Vow if I escaped with Life and Liberty, I would immediately take a Pilgrimage to *Rome* to be absolv'd of the Pope's Curse, which I lay under, for perswading the Wolf to run away from a Monastery where he had enter'd himself a Monk, upon his complaining to me that he was almost famished for want of Food, tho' indeed he eat as much as six ; and from thence I intend to pass to *Jerusalem*, and to mortifie myself by Fasting and doing good Works, that I may wash off the Stains my Crimes have fixed on me. Well, replied the King, if such a Vow be upon you and you under the Censure of the Church, you shall not

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 59

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accompany me, but depart and perform what you have promised : I will take *Keyward* the Hare and some others with me, who may direct me as well.

The Fox greatly rejoiced at this ; and the Conference was no sooner over, but the King and Queen mounted on a Scaffold, in sight of all Beasts present, placing the Fox between 'em, and Silence being commanded the Lion thus began : All you my Subjects, who are here assembled, give good Attention to what I shall say : In *Reynard* I find no Fault, or at least such as he has repented of ; therefore I constitute him one of my supream Ministers in State-affairs, and of my Household the chief Officer, freely acquitting him of all his Trespases, and consigning to him a general Pardon for all Crimes committed by him to this very Moment ; and therefore command you, upon your Allegiance, to do to him, his Wife and Children, that Reverence as is due to their Characters ; for he is going a Pilgrimage to *Rome* to repent him of his Sins, and obtain the Pope's Absolution

When the Wolf, Bear and Cat heard this, they were much griev'd that his Flatteries and Lies had prevail'd against the Truth ; so that the Wolf could not forbear complain

plaining against the Fox to the King, with such Arrogance, that being seconded in the manner by the Bear, it was taken so heinously, that they were both arrested for High-Treason, and bound hand and foot, so that they could not stir from the Place where they lay; afterward they were cast into a Dungeon, which not only overjoyed the Fox, that his Project had taken so well, but struck the rest of his Enemies with such Fear, that they immediately departed; yet here he stopped not, but petitioned the Queen to have as much of the Bear's Skin as would make a Male; as also to have the Wolf's two Foreshoes, and his Wife's Hinder shoes, to keep his Feet from the Stones and and Gravel which were taken from them with great Pain and Danger of their Lives; yet notwithstanding the intolerable Pain, they durst not revile the treacherous Fox, who had been the Occasion of their Miseries.

When *Reynardine* had greas'd and fitted on his Shoes, he desired that his Staff might be blessed and delivered to him according to the Use of Pilgrims; which the King commanded the Ram to do, as also to say Mass over him before he departed; but he refused it, because he was under the Pope's Curse.

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 61

Curse, unless the King would secure him against the Bishop and Ordinary; but when he saw the Lion angry, he trembl'd for Fear, and immediately sung Mass over the Fox, who little regarded it, more than to have the Honour of it; then giving Benediction to his Staff and Male, he deliver'd it to him; so the Lion and all the Beasts attended the Fox part of his Way, who seem'd loath to depart, tho' inwardly he desir'd nothing more than to be rid of their Attendance; so that he intreated the King to return for his Health's sake, and to prevent the Danger that might happen if the Wolf and Bear should get loose and raise Tumults and Commotions; so taking solemn Leave, the King return'd with all the Beasts, except *Keyward* and *Sir Bellin*, whom *Reynard* perswaded to go further with him; so, by degrees, with pleasant Tales and Discourses, he drill'd 'em by unknown Ways, to *Malepardus*, that being his furthest intended Pilgrimage; and now he was fully resolved to be revenged on the Hare for accusing him to the King; wherefore at the Gate of his Palace, he said, *Sir Bellin*, if you'll but stay a little here, I and *Keyward* will step in a few Moments, and take Leave of my Wife and Children, where he shall be Witness

62 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

to a few Passages and Vows between us, that if either break 'em, the Law may inflict due Punishment; so going in, they found the She-fox and her young Ones at their Ease; yet she no sooner see *Reynard* return in Safety, but leaping up, she run to embrace him, and ask of his Welfare, and how he sped at Court; which he told her from Point to Point, with all the Honour that had been done him, how he had left the Bear and Wolf in Prison, and deceived the King; and, as for this *Keyward* he's my Enemy, and has vehemently accused me, and I have decoyed him hither, to take Revenge, and feast on his Carcase.

*Keyward* no sooner heard this, but he trembled, and cried to *Bellin* for Help; but *Reynard* soon caught him by the Throat, and stopped his Noise, so they eat him up all but the Head, which the Fox saved to ensnare the Ram's Life.

After they had merrily breakfasted on poor *Keyward's* Carcase, the Fox declared to his Wife, That this Fact known at Court, would make all be disbelieved he had said, and then speedy Search would be made after him: therefore if she would agree to it, he thought fit, for both their Safeties, to change the Place of their Abroad,



boad, and live *Incognito*, but she urged so many Reasons against it, that he resolved not to remove.

Whilst these things passed within, *Bellin* was without waiting, with much impatience for the *Hare's* Return, that they might go back to Court, and therefore call'd aloud for him to come forth; whereupon the Fox went to him, and said, Good Sir *Bellin*, be not angry, for *Keyward* is so engag'd in Discourse with his Aunt, he cannot leave her, nor can she as yet part with him, her Love is so great to him; but if you will be pleas'd to go a softly Pace before, you know he is light, and will easily overtake you before you have travelled many Miles. Nay, said the Ram, but, if I mistake not, I heard *Keyward* piteously cry out, Murder. Alas, replied the Fox, then you are mistaken indeed; can you so much as fancy he can receive any Hurt under my Roof? far be that Thought from you: True it is, there is something in it; you might hear him cry indeed, for when I told my Wife the long and dangerous Pilgrimage I had undertaken, she swoounded away for Grief; whereupon *Keyward*, thro' the great Affection he bears her, fearing she would have dy'd, cry'd out, O! Sir *Bellin*, help, help, my Aunt dies: but

64 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

but soon she was revived to his and my unspeakable Joy, whereupon he left crying. But letting these things pass, you remember I promis'd to send the King Letters before my Departure, which all this while I have been writing, and must intreat you, dear Cousin, to carry.

I would be your Friend in this, said the Ram, but I am, as you see, unprovided of any thing to put 'em in, and to carry 'em in my Mouth would look ridiculous. Well, said the Fox, for this trouble not yourself, you shall have my Mail, which you may hang about your Neck, and carry with little trouble; they are so well penn'd that you will gain Credit by 'em, if not Preferment; I am content you should have the Praise of 'em, and say you dictated the Words, whilst I writ them down. This made the silly Ram, who was ambitious, greatly to rejoyce; so the Mail, with murdered *Keyward's* Head in it, was hung about his Neck, and so he took his Leave, flattering himself with the conceived Hopes of Advancement all the way he went to Court, considering many ignorant Persons, who have had the Vanity to attribute the Labours of others to 'emselves, have more with Advancement; and why might not he be of that Number? When

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*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 65

When he came to Court almost breathless for haste, he found the King sitting amongst his Nobles, discoursing of *Reynard's* Pilgrimage, many pitying him for his tedious Journey he had undertaken, and applauded him for his Reformation from a wicked, to a virtuous Life; but when the Lion say the Bear's Skin-mail about the Ram's Neck, with something weighty in it, he wondered, and the more, because he came without the Hare; and thereupon demanded where he left the Fox: My Lord, replied he, I attended him to his House, and from thence I brought these Letters, which, indeed are of my own indicting, tho' my Cousin writ them over, and recommended them to your Majesty, not doubting but they'll give your Highness great Satisfaction.

The King commanded *Bocart* his Secretary to take off the Mail, open it, and read the Letters with a laudible Voice; but instead of Letters, he had no sooner put his Hand therein, but he drew out murdered *Keyward's* Head, which struck the whole Assembly into a great Consternation; and the Ram seeing how he was imposed on, trembled, and fell on his Knees, craving Mercy. The King having by this time recovered

cover'd himself from his Amaze, with an angry Voice, his Eyes sparkling like Lightning, said, How blinded was I in my Understanding, e'er to credit this Traytor *Reynard*, who under all his fair Speeches covers Malice and Mischief. Whereupon he groan'd terribly, and hung down his Head for Anger and Shame to be so imposed on, as likewise did the Queen, which Sir *Firelapel* the Libbard, who sat next to the King, perceiving, thus began.

Let not Sorrow come near your Highness's Heart for this trayterous Deed, but keep it for nobler Purposes : Are not you Lord of the Forests, and all your Subjects in your Power to punish as you please. To this the King replied, Dear Cousin, such unexpected Mischief and Disgrace as this cannot but touch me near ; I am, to my Shame, betrayed by a base Villian, whom I too fondly, and against Reason, credited, one who has made me do Injury to my best Friends, and even those of my Blood, as is testified in what I have unadvisedly done to the Wolf and Bear on his Accusation, and my Queen's Perswasions, which will stick as a Stain and Reproach on me for ever.

Let not your Majesty say so, replied the Lib-

Libbard, you stand above all Injuries, and your Smiles can easily cure the Wounds you have made, the Recompences you are able to give, are sufficient to reward those that may complain : If the Bear and Wolf have been injured by *Reynard's* false Accusations, there is a present way before you to make them amends : since the Ram has confess'd himself a Party with *Reynard* in *Keyward's* Death, owned he indicted the Letters, which in plain Terms was murdering the Hare, for no better Construction can be made of it, seeing he has audaciously brought his Head to your Majesty, let him and his Lineage be given to them as a Prey : And for *Reynard*, tho he is not in your Power at present, yet we will go and besiege his Castle, take him thence by force, and bring him bound to your Majesty, to do with him as you shall think fit.

This Council highly pleas'd the King, who immediately sent the Libbard to fetch Sir *Bruin* and Sir *Isgrim* from Prison, where they lay in Chains, expecting every Hour the Sentence of Death ; but Sir *Firelapel* no sooner pronounced their Pardon, but those Fears vanished, they rejoiced when he told them the King was not only sorry for their Punishment he had caused to be inflicted  
on



on 'em, but as a Recompence, had deliver'd into their Power the Ram and his whole Lineage, to devour and destroy at their Pleasure, where ever they met 'em for ever; as also to hunt and destroy *Reynard* the Fox, and all his Lineage where ever they should find him or them; and for which Privilege they should receive Letters Patents under the Royal Signet, not to be revok'd, if they kept their Fealty inviolable; upon these Terms, coming into the King's Presence, they were received into Favour again, so that at the King's Command. *Bellin* was immediately slain, and after him, they went out and destroyed a great many of his Kindred, as well sucking Lambs, as Ewes, and so continue to persecute them to this Day.

Now upon this Reconciliation great Feasting was made at Court, which continued many Days, to which resorted all Beasts, and as many Birds as were in Friendship with the King; but the Fox he kept close, and would not be present, though he was cited, so that all manner of Recreations were to be seen there: But during this, came *Laprel*, the Coney, with a grievous Complaint against *Reynard*, That whereas he was passing by *Malepardus*, and percei-

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*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 69

iving him standing in the Habit of a Pilgrim at the Gate, supposing to have passed peaceably by him, he leap'd on him at un-awares, and struck him such a violent Blow between the Head and Shoulders, that he fell down, and had he not suddenly recovered, and leaped from between *Reynard's* Claws, tho' very much wounded, he had there devour'd him.

The Coney had no sooner made an end of his Complaint, and pray'd Justice, but *Corbant* the Rook came flying before the King with a piteous Noise, saying, I beseech your Majesty to hear and revenge my Wrongs on bloody *Reynard*; for so it happened that this Morning, *Sharpbeak* my Wife, leaving our young Ones in a neighbouring Wood, flew to the Heath to seek some Food for 'em, where, to our great Amazement, we saw *Reynard* lie stretched on the Ground like a dead Carcase, his Tongue lolling out of his Mouth, and his Eyes fix'd and staring; who, Wo is me! my Wife in her Simplicity, laying her Head to his Mouth, to hear if she could perceive him breath, the treacherous Dissembler, who had put himself into that Posture to move our Compassion, and draw us within his reach, leap'd up on a sudden, and catch-

on 'em, but as a Recompence, had deliver'd into their Power the Ram and his whole Lineage, to devour and destroy at their Pleasure, where-ever they met 'em for ever; as also to hunt and destroy *Reynard* the Fox, and all his Lineage where-ever they should find him or them; and for which Privilege they should receive Letters Patents under the Royal Signet, not to be revok'd, if they kept their Fealty inviolable; upon these Terms, coming into the King's Presence, they were received into Favour again, so that at the King's Command. *Bellin* was immediately slain, and after him, they went out and destroyed a great many of his Kindred, as well sucking Lambs, as Ewes, and so continue to persecute them to this Day.

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*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 69

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70 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*  
catching hold of her Neck, bit her Head  
off: Whereupon, affrighted, I flew into  
the Air, or else, with the same Greediness,  
he had taken me along with her, but get-  
ting to a Tree, I there sat secure, tho' in  
great Sorrow to see him devour her Body;  
which done, he went away; then flew I  
with doleful Cries to the Place, and ga-  
thered up all her Remains, which were  
only these Feathers, which I brought be-  
fore your Majesty, as a Testimonial of her  
Murther.

*The Moral.] By the Honour the King did  
the Fox, shews, that great Oaes may be deceived  
by specious Pretences, especially if they are cove-  
tously given, as the Lion's Hopes of gaining the  
Treasure made him acquit Reynard, whom, a  
little before, he had justly condemned. By the  
Misery he put the Wolf and Bear to, signifies  
the sudden Turn of Affairs, and how to com-  
plain unseasonably brings Mischief. His slaying  
the Hare, and sending his Head by the Ram,  
removes, innocent Persons are betrayed into Mis-  
chief unadvisedly under specious Pretences of  
Friendship. The Complaints of the Coney and  
Cock, a wicked Habit in the Fox.*





C H A P. V.

How the King, upon these fresh Complaints, grew exceeding angry: How Grimbard the Brock gave him Advice of it; and how the Fox was a second time absolv'd, and excus'd himself to the King: How Dame Rukenaw the She Ape, pleaded for him, and the King consented to hear him.



THE King, upon these new Complainers and Villanies, was so mov'd against him, that he vow'd the bloodiest Revenge that ever Creature fell under, from which all his Flatteries shou'd never be able to deliver him: Is this, said he, his Pilgrimage

mage to *Rome*, and the *Holy Land*? For this did he procure his Shooes and Scrip, to the hazard of my Friends Lives? Well, he shall dearly rue it: tho', indeed, I should never have believ'd him, but for the Perswasions of my Queen. When he had thus said, with a stern Countenance, he commanded his Nobles to give Counsel, so that his Honour might in this Case be sav'd, and his Fame not evil spoken of. At this the *Bear* and *Wolf* greatly rejoy'd as still thirsting after Revenge; yet they kept Silence. expecting others to speak first; but none doing it, the King grew exceeding angry, looking grimly on them, till the Queen said, Sir, It's no part of Royal Wisdom to protest, or believe any thing till the Matter be made apparent: therefore you ought to have both your Ears open in this Case, as well to the Complainants, as Complained; so that weighing the Cause in Equity, you may the better do Justice: And however I may have err'd in persuading you to any thing in Favour of him, I am thus far sure, that it will be most for your Honour, since he cannot fly out of your reach, to try him by the Laws.

This Speech of the Queen's was seconded by the *Libbard*, who said she had spoken  
very

very graciously, and that he could not in reason go from what she had said, in trying the Fox, by which, if found Guilty, would leave him without Excuse: Therefore said he, it is fit he should be summon'd, and confronting his Accusers, make his Defence.

This mov'd Sir *Isgrim* to Anger, fearing, if the Fox had this Favour allow'd, he would not, by one Trick or other, fail to get another Advantage over him; saying, if my Lord the King's pleasure be to comply with your Advice, none of us must gainsay it; however, I will maintain *Reynard* a false Traytor, and one whose Life is deservedly forfeited, if but for his late abusing the King, with a false Story at *Creckneypit*, which was only feign'd to get his Liberty, and to bring the King's true Subjects into Disgrace, that he might go on in his Rogueries, and rob and spoil all that pass by his Castle: You see likewise, how little he respects the King, who the other Day gave him his Life, that he has sent him, in Derision, *Keyward's* Head, and laughs at the thoughts of his deceiving him with a feigned Pilgrimage.

The King hearing this, made but light of what the Queen and Libbard had said, and therefore resolving to take him from his

Castle by Force, and execute him on his former Sentence, he commanded all the Beasts to arm, and attend him for that Purpose within six Days; ordering those that were not free to this, as any way favouring the Fox, to turn their Back, that he might know them for his Enemies; and hereupon the Assembly broke up.

*Grimbard*, hearing what Danger *Reynard* was in, privately withdrew, to advertise him of it, that so he might make timely Provision for his Safety: *Reynard* no sooner saw him, but concluding he came with bad News, demanded what brought him thither? To which the Brock, replied, O Uncle! fly for your Life, the King, with all the Power of his Kingdom, is arming against you; your Enemies *Bruin* and *Isgrim*, are releas'd out of Prison; and have slain the Ram, for bringing *Keyward's* Head; likewise all his Lineage is given up to their Power, and they are now in higher Favour than ever, wherefore they will not fail to urge your Destruction; there are likewise exhibited against you, new Complaints by *Corbant* the Rook, and *Laprel* the Coney.

Well, Nephew, replied the Fox, I return you hearty Thanks for your officious Care; but were there a Thousand conspiring against

## The History of Reynard the Fox. 75

gainst me, I value 'em not a Rush; for if I  
 can have liberty to speak for my self to the  
 King, I shall be even with some of 'em, be-  
 fore they are aware; Therefore trouble not  
 your self, Nephew, but let us go in and feast  
 on this Pair of young Pigeons, I just now  
 took, as they attempted to fly out of their  
 Nest: So, charging him he should tell his  
 Wife nothing of the Danger, in they went,  
 where *Ermelin* receiv'd the Brock very kind-  
 ly. After Dinner, *Reynard* requested *Grim-*  
*h* that he would promise to stand by him,  
 and get him as many Friends as he could  
 do the like, for he was resolved to come  
 to Court, and once more face his Enemies.  
 You do well in that, replied the Brock, and  
 on my Life, I will undertake for you, that  
 you shall not be without Friends to second  
 you, nor want the Favour to speak freely  
 before the King. Then *Reynard* call'd his  
 Sons before him, and declared to the Brock  
 how forward they were at their Game,  
 that they had the true Quality of the Fox,  
 which was to intangle and betray, and  
 kill when they seem'd most compassionate;  
 and all that he had further to learn 'em be-  
 fore they were sent out, was to avoid  
 Gins; Snares, and Hounds; which To-  
 wardliness of his young Kindred made the  
 Brock



76 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

Brock greatly rejoyce ; and having rested a little, they prepared to depart ; *Reynard* charging his Wife to be troubl'd at no News she should hear, but construe it to the best ; as also to be careful of herself and his Children, and keep close the Gates, not letting any one in, Friend or Foe, till his return, or that she heard further from him : And so away they went together, not telling his Wife the Cause of his Journey, whereupon he left her in exceeding Sorrow for his so sudden and unexpected Departure,

Being on the Way, the Fox urg'd the Brock to take his Confession a second time, for that since he was last shaven, he had committed many Sins ; to which *Grimbard* agreeing, he thus proceeded : *You know very well how I caus'd the Bear and the Wolf to be serv'd by falsely accusing 'em to the King, as also Dame Arsewind, whose Hinder-shoes were stript off at my Request, and further then, know, that the Story that I told the King of the Treasure was all feign'd, as was the Conspiracy of Bruin and Isgrim ; Keyward I kill'd, and betray'd the Life of Bellin, in sending his Head by him to the King ; the Coney I wounded, and would have slain, had he not slipp'd out of my Hand ; Sharpbeak I did slay and eat ; I fur-*  
ther

ther put an almost fatal Trick upon the Wolf, which in my last Confession I omitted to mention, which was thus : As we pass'd over a Heath, by a Wood-side, the Wolf being very hungry, esp'y'd a Mare with a curious fat Colt running by her Side ; at this his Chaps water'd, but fearing the Mare's Strength, he resolv'd to try another Way, whereupon he sent me to know whether she would sell it, and if so, what the Price wou'd be ; when I, to please him at that time, went and ask'd the Question ; to which the Mare replied, she would willingly sell him for ready Money ; but when I came to demand her Price, she said, she could not tell it ; but if I cou'd read, I might find it written at the botoom of her Hind-foot : Ho, ho, thought I, are you thereabouts ; well, this will pass on my Uncle Isgrim, but not on me ; then I told her truly, that I could not read, nor did I come to purchase for myself, but for the Wolf, who is hard by expecting your Answer : Then, said the Mare, let him come and read it himself, that we may speedily agree : So I went and told him, if he could read he might have his Belly full, for the Mare would freely sell her Foal, if he could read to her the Price of him, which, she said, was written on the Bottom of her Hind-foot.

Read, replied Isgrim, (with a kind of Disdain) why I have studied at both Uni-

*History of Reynard the FOX.*  
versities, and can read perfectly well all Languages: Therefore, if that be all, let me alone to buy the Purchase. So away he went, but had no sooner taken up the Mare's Foot, but the crafty Jade, whilst he was poring on it, smote him full on the Forehead, so that he tumbled over and over, lying and pitiously howling on the Ground, whilst she gallop'd away, laughing at the Trick, her Foal following her the same Pace, till they were both out of sight; whereupon I went to him, and said, Dear Uncle, what have you eaten up all the Colt, and left me not one small Morsel? But pray what did you find written on the Mare's Foot; it should be a prick'd Song by your singing; indeed you have now shewed yourself a good Scholar, and gain'd a plentiful Feast by it. O Nephew, replied he, do not add more Misery to me by scoffing at me, you see I am all bloody and desperately wounded, for whilst I was looking on her Foot, taking the Nails to be Letters, the damn'd Jade, with her long Leg, and Iron-heel, smote me on the Head, that she has e'en beat out my Brains. Alas, said I. Uncle, I am sorry for that; but indeed I took you to be one of the greatest Scholars; but, I see, according to the old

Pro-

Proverb, That the greatest Scholars are not the wisest Men. This, with my smiling, made him fret exceedingly, but all in vain, he knew not how to help himself.

Upon this *Reynard* desired the Brock to absolve him ; which he did, by making him take certain Stones out of a Brook, and laying them at a Distance, rowl himself three times over them ; and so they went on, discounting of Flatteries of Courtiers, the Dissimulation of Priests and Women, &c. till they came to the King's Presence, where he saw many of his Friends, which made him not a little rejoyce ; then he fell down before the Throne, whilst the King wondered how he durst venture to appear ; and thus began to deliver himself: *My dread Sovereign Lord the King, and Lady the Queen, May all Blessings descend upon you to crown you with a lasting Health and Happiness, and give you Wisdom, that you may truly discern between Right and Falshood ; to know who are your Friends, and who are your Enemies : Here I am come to excuse my self of Crimes unjustly laid to my Charge since my late Departure ; or else by this time, I had been far on my Pilgrimage ; therefore I beseech your Majesty to let me see my Accusers that dare to impute to me any Failing in my Promise, or Disobedience to your Majesty.*

To this the King replied, with a stern Countenance, *Reynard*, I know you are subtil, and full of Deceit; but this Day shall be the end of your taking Pride in my Disgrace, for which your Life shall immediately pay the Price of my Dishonour: Yet have shewed your Obedience to my Commands, in the Violence and Murder you offered to the Coney and Rook, who are here to testifie again you.

*My dread Sovereign*, replied the Fox, *their Accusations I would gladly hear; however, I know it to be false.*

Then they accused him, as has been recited; upon which the Fox replied, *My Lord, this is a palpable Malice, and no Truth, they are suborned by my Enemies, to bring these Slanders against me: I confess when my Nephew Grimbard, brought me Tidings of it, I was preparing for my Pilgrimage, but it so troubled me, that I resolved not to go till I had cleared myself before your Majesty: The Coney, whom I ever held as my Friend, came to my House, as I was saying Mattins, and was kindly welcomed, and feasted by my Wife, with such, as on a Fast-day, I could keep in my House; but having refreshed himself, Ressel my Son, who waited at Table, offered to take away what he had left; whereupon the Coney gave him a violence*



**The History of Reynard the Fox.** 81.

*lent Blow on his Mouth, which made him bleed ; which his Brother Reynardine seeing, and being grieved therewith, fell upon him, and would have slain him, had not I, upon his crying out, come from my Devotions and taken him off, giving my Son severe Correction for breaking the Rules of Hospitality in my House ; but, it seems, for the good Deed, his Malice has made him post to your Highness, and accuse me of a Crime I am ignorant of.*

*As for the Rook, there is nothing more false than this Accusation ; for, as Yesterday, I was sitting at my Door, he came flying about me with great Cries, of which I demanded the Cause, he said, Wo is me ! for my Wife, Dame Sharpbeak, is dead. How came she by her Death ? said I. Alas, replied he, Yesterday on the Heath she found the Carcass of a dead Hare, which she eating, and it being full of Worms, they eat thro' her Stomach and kill'd her. This, my Lord, is the Truth, neither more nor less.*

If this be true, which I very much doubt, replied the King, there's another Treason against you, which, I believe, you cannot deny, that is, the Murder of *Keyward*, whose Head you sent me, in Derision, by *Billin*, the Ram, who has been executed, as being only your Messenger, and for which you shall surely die.

At this *Reynard* was much dejected, but being comforted by Dame *Rukinaw* the She-Ape, his Aunt, he took Courage, and replied, *Alas, my gracious Lord, you tell me strange News ; is the poor Hare dead ? It grieves me to think on't : he was very dear to me, and far be it from me, that I, who lov'd him, shou'd have a Hand in his Death.*

Then said the King, sternly, Thou dissembling Traytor, darest thou pretend to guild over thy Wickedness with plausible Words ; thou art now too sure in my Hands to escape my Justice.

This made him fetch many deep Sighs, as fearing now his last Hour was come ; which the She-Ape perceiving, addressed herself on his behalf, to the King in this manner : My gracious Lord, I beseech you, for a while, suspend your Anger, and hear what I've to say.

At first the King refus'd her Request, but the Queen and Libbard interceeding, she had leave to proceed.

Then said she, My gracious Lord, there are many here that complain, who have more grievously offended ; my Kinsman's Merits plead for him, when they can pretend to none, that has been any ways serviceable

viceable to your Highness; it is not unknown to your Majesty, what Services yourself and Predecessors have receiv'd from his Father and self, having born greater Reputation in Court than either the Bear or Wolf; or all their Kindred; their wise Councils have been in great Esteem, when others have been rejected; but now things go strangely, his Services are forgot, and those that deserve not, are taken into Favour, who rather seek to Debase, than Advance, your Majesty's Honour and Dignity.

The King replied, Dame *Rukenaw*, had the Offences done by *Reynard* been to you, you'd have resented 'em more: He has been so wicked, that of all others, there's none but yourself will speak well of him; and you only he has deceiv'd into a belief of his Sanctity, by Flattery and Disimulation.

Nay, replied she, my Lord, I am more wise than to be deceiv'd, I know much Good of him, and therefore love him; I can tell how his Judgment and Wisdom has been applauded by your Majesty; you may well remember a Man and a Serpent came to the Court for Judgment, and he wisely determin'd it; when neither the Bear, Wolf or any other knew how to do it; the Case was briefly thus: A Man on the Road

# 84. *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

found a Serpent entangl'd in a Snare, who cried pitiously to him for help, which moved the Man to Compassion; so that upon the Serpent's Oath, not to hurt him, he deliver'd him from certain Death; whereupon they travell'd together, till the Serpent grew hungry, flew at the Man; but he starting aside, put him in mind of his Oath; to which he replied, I remember it well; but now Hunger dispences with it, I may lawfully kill thee, However, the Man desir'd, that his Case might be try'd by the next Passenger, which happen'd to be *Zifellen* the Raven, and *Slinope* his Son, who gave Judgment against the Man, in hopes to get a share: but he refus'd to stand to their Award, as Delighters in Blood, as also he did that of the Bear and the Volf, who gave the like Sentence against him for the same Reason, appealing from them to your Majesty, whom he knew to be Noble, Merciful, and Wise, yet much perplex'd to determine this Matter: by your Desire the Fox undertook to do it: when he desir'd to see the Serpent in the same case he was when the Man releas'd him: hereupon, by your own Command, being nooz'd in the Snare, out of which he had been deliver'd, my Kinsman then said,

If the Man will release him now, and trust to his Oath, then the Serpent shall be at liberty to chuse whether he will eat him, or forbear; but if he thinks he will break his Oath, then I leave it to his Discretion to do as he pleases. To which the Man replied, I will not release him; for if he, who is once perjur'd, get loose, he will not hereafter regard any Oath, but certainly destroy me. So the Serpent for his former Ingratitude was left in the Snare to be famish'd. This Judgment of *Reynard's* was then highly applauded, as just and equitable, by yourself and all the Court, above what had e'er been given in any doubtful Case; tho' he boasted not of it, as many would have done, tho' less deserving: Besides these, and other things, he has many Kindred that will stand by him with their Lives and Fortunes; as for my part, I and my three Children will die in his Cause, rather than he should suffer any Injury; which a number more will not fail to do. Then she call'd forth all her Kindred and Relations, saying, Come forth all my dear Friends, and stand by your Kinsman *Reynard*, all of you Petition for him to his Majesty, that he may give him the Privilege of the Law.

Then



Then presently leap'd forward a great number of Beasts, as the Squirrel, Weazel, Ferrit, Otter, &c. all of them loving Pul-len as well as *Reynard*, standing by him, and beseeching the King in his behalf, for they stood in awe of *Dame Rukenaw*, and durst not disoblige her.

The Queen seeing this, said, Truly Dame, I and Sir *Firelupel* told the King as much, but his Anger, for the Death of *Keyward*, blinded his Judgment and Reason so, that he would not give us the hearing.

To this the King replied, Truly I was a little overseen in't, for that Disgrace done me, gave me no time to consider; but now he shall answer for himself, and if the Laws will quit him, I'm contented.

At this unexpected Turn of his Affairs, *Reynard* greatly rejoiced, and gave hearty Thanks to his Aunt, who had gained this Advantage for him; saying, Dear Aunt, I'm now confident all my Adversaries shall not prevail against me.

Moral.] *The Anger of the Lion, shews the Disposition of a good Prince, to be offended at Vice and Injustice; or at the Injuries done to his good Subjects; and the Perswasion of the Queen*  
and

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 37

*and Libbard shews the Temper every good Prince ought to be endow'd withal, not to be too hasty or passionate, but to administer Justice with Moderation. The Wolf's Envyng. shews the Malice of a Subtil Foe is to take all Advantages. The Brock's secret going to the Fox shews the Office of a good Friend; as does the Ape's, who spoke for him; but the Fox's second Repentance, a continued Dissimulation, to ensnare the Belief of the Credulous.*

CHAP.

## C H A P. VI.

*How the Fox, having liberty to plead, protested his Innocence ; and describ'd certain Jewels he sent to the King and Queen by the Ram, grieving for the loss of them ; and his own Services and Merits, gains the King's good Opinion.*



**T**HE Fox having now free leave to plead, said, May it please my gracious Lord, you much astonish'd me, when you mention'd the Death of Keyward the Hare ; if he be dead ! O where is Bellin the Ram, that he may stand forth and clear my Innocence ; besides, I tremble to think what precious Jewels are lost, if he has  
mis-



# The History of Reynard the Fox. 89

miscarried, all the *Wealth* of both the *Indies* cannot make a *Recompence* for their *inestimable Value* ; but more it grieves me, they should be detain'd from you, to whom I sent one of them, and the other two to my Lady the *Queen*, in *Requit*al of her *Kindness* to me in my late *Misery*.

Nay, said the King, however it happen'd, I received no *Jewels*, the *Ram* only brought me the *Head* of *Keyward*,

Upon this, the *Fox* look'd very sad and dejected, crying out, *Wo* and *alas*, to me ! that ever I should trust so faithless a *Messenger* with such *inestimable Treasure* ; the loss of these *Jewels*, I know, will be the *Death* of my *Wife*, when the *doleful Tidings* comes to her. Well, said *Dame Rukenaw*, sorrowing for 'em will little avail ; let us hear 'em describ'd, and then we'll take care to find 'em out, in whose *Hands* they are, if all the wise *Women* in the *Country* can discover 'em.

O ! dear *Aunt*, said *Reynard*, you do but say this to take off my *Sorrow*, for I am confident, into whose *Hands* soever they are fallen, they will not part with them for any thing on *Earth* ; no *Crowns* or *Kingdoms* can buy them from them, if they but know their *Virtues*, however, though their *Remembrance* does add to my *Affliction*, yet, to please you, if the *King* and *Queen* desire it, I will describe them. Upon this

this, having Leave given, he began in this manner :

*The first, said he, that I sent to my Lord the King, was a Ring of Gold, in which was plac'd a Jewel of great Price, it was inamell'd with Sable and Azure, and within it engraven three Hebrew Characters, which I could not read ; but going to a great Astrologer and Linguist, he told me, they were the Names which Seth brought out of Paradise, when he fetch'd from the Guardian Angel some of the Oyl of Mercy to heal his Father Adam's grievous Distemper, and whosoever wore it, should be free from Thunder and Lightning, and any Conspiracies against him live long, be always victorious, resist Temptations, Witchcraft, and be Prudent and Healthful : The Stone set in it was of three several Colours, the first like Christial, glittering with Sparkles of Fire, so that in the Dark it gave a marvellous Light ; the second was clear and sparkling with Flame-colour, having a Virtue to cure any Defect in the Eyes or Body, only by stroaking the Place griev'd, and indeed most Distempers, especially all Venome : The last was of Emerald-colour, mix'd with small Spots of Purple, so that whoever wore it, should be matchless for Valour, altogether unconquerable, not stirred to Passion, but Wise, Just, and Merciful : I had many other rare Virtues, so that*



I could not imagin any Creature on Earth worthy to possess it but your Majesty, who is the best of Princes. The other two Jewels I sent to my Lady the Queen, one of 'em was a Comb, made of the Shoulder-bone of Pantherus, a Beast found near Paradise, whose Beauty and Smell allures all Beasts to him, and in this one Bone all the Virtues of him is contain'd, yet it was polish'd so light, that any Breath of Wind would move it from its place; the Scent of it was so rare, that it cured Appoplexies, and all Diseases of the Head, beyond the Skill of the most learned Doctors; and between the Teeth of it, which look'd like Silver, were spaces in which curious Figures were engraven, and inlaid with Gold, representing the Story, how the three Goddesses strove for the Golden Apple, and chose Paris, Son to King Parimus, Judge, to determine the Strife; who seeing them all naked, for the Inscription on it was, Be it be given to the Fairest; he decreed it to Venus the Queen of Beauty, in lieu whereof, she gave him the beautiful Hellen of Greece, Wife to King Menelaus, which caus'd the ten Years Wars of Troy, and in the end, the Destruction of that famous City by the Greeks. The next Jewel as I may well term it, was a Mirror, or Glass, wherein whoever look'd, might see things at a great distance, as plain as if they had been near them,

yea,

## 92 The History of Reynard the Fox.

year, for many Miles : The Wood of the Frame was of such a Nature, that it was exceeding light, no Worms, or space of Time was capable to corrupt or destroy it ; and on it were fram'd many curious Stories, inlaid with Wood of various Colours, enamel'd with Gold, the Words being written under the Figures in Letters of Gold to explain 'em : The first was the Fable of the Horse, who being at Contention with the Hart, and not able to overcome him, implor'd the Herdsman to mount on his Back, that so he might pursue his Adversary ; but being weary, the Hart by much outstripping him, he desir'd his Rider to light, that he might rest. Nay said he, not so, for having a Bridle in your Mouth, and Spurs at my Heels, you having once voluntarily given up your Power and Freedom, shall be at Command. At which the poor Horse, too late, seeing what Misery his Thurst of Revenge had brought him into, only sigh'd and bewailed his Captivity. At another Corner of the Frame was, the Fable of the Ass and the Hound : It so happen'd, that an old rich Farmer had a little Hound that he entirely lov'd, who us'd to play with him, leap'd into his Lap, and feed at his Table, whose lazy kind of Life the Ass seeing, and how much the Hound was made of for't, whilst himself, who by his Labour brought in much Gain, was turn'd into a dirty Hovel, to feed

# The History of Reynard the Fox. 93

feed on Chaff and Straw, resolv'd to try if his flattering his Master might bring him into as great Favour; whereupon one Day as he came home he met him, leap'd upon him, frisk'd his Tail, and shook his Ears; but his Master little minding it he came nearer to him, and standing on his Hind legs, laid his Fore-feet on his Shoulders, braying horribly, and offered to kiss him; by which the Master was thrown to the Ground, crying out piteously, Help, help, this wicked Ass will murder me. Whereupon his Servants came running with Cudgels, and so belabour'd poor Baldwin the Ass, that with a bruised Pate and broken Bones, he was forc'd to fly to his Hovel for Shelter, where lying down on dirty Straw, he thus complain'd to himself; O Wo is me! I see I must be a poor laborious Ass, whilst idle Parasites Flatterers live by my Toil and Sweat, in Ease and Pleasure. At another Corner was the Story of my Father and Sir Tybert, who travelling together by a Wood-side, and being espied by the Huntsmen and Hounds, when my Father said to the Cat, Climb up that Tree, for I have a hundred Wiles to escape. Whereupon he immediately clamber'd up a high Oak, where, among the thick Boughs, he remain'd secure and unseen, whilst my Father was pursu'd near at the Heels; and had he not drop'd his Mail,

94 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

Mail, and flipp'd into a Hole, he had, notwithstanding all his Wiles, become a Breakfast to the greedy Hounds; whilst the Cat stood securely scoffing, saying, Now, Sir *Reynard*, it's time to use all your Cunning, or your Skin goes to the Furrier's. At the fourth Corner was the Story of the ungrateful Wolf, to the Crane, who having with his long Neck and Bill, pull'd a Bone out of his Throat, that stick cross, which grievously pain'd him, and had certainly kill'd him; he not only refus'd Sir *Grain* the Crain, his Reward, but scoffingly told him, It was well he escaped with Life; since when his Head was in his Mouth, it was in his Power to have bit it off; and since he was so kind as not to do it, he ought to take that for Satisfaction: which proves his high Ingratitude, not only to the Crane, but to me who have done him much good. These, and a number more, were the Devices that beautified this stately Jewel, which makes me shed Tears for its Loss, since, with such Care, I took it from the rest of my Father's Treasure, to preserve it for your Majesty: And one thing more there is that much troubles me, which is, That your Majesty shou'd say, That neither my Father nor myself have done

done any Good, but been troublesome to the Court: Remember, I beseech you, when you were young, how your Royal Father, lying on a languishing Bed, despairing of Life my Father came from his studying Physick at *Montpelier*, and coming into the King's Presence, he said, Ah! *Reynard*, I am grievous sick, and must die, unless your Learning and Skill in Physick can find a Remedy.

Let not my Lord say so, replied he, then feeling his Pulse, and viewing his Urine he found it was a Pleurisie, and might be cur'd, by eating the Liver of a Wolf of seven Years growth This, *Igrim's* Father hearing began to tremble; but the languishing King casting his Eyes on him, said, Sir *Igrim*, you hear this, and I am sorry it falls on you, yet, for the Publick Good, you must not value your Life, since in mine the whole Common-wealth is so nearly concern'd.

Then the Wolf began to excuse it, saying, He was not meant by't, for he was but five Years old.

However, said my Father, that matters not, let me see the Liver, and then I can tell whether it will fit or not.

So the Wolf was slain by the King's Cook,  
his



his Liver taken out and dress'd, and thereupon your Father recover'd his Health, and liv'd many Years; tho' perhaps your Highness was so young then, that this Passage is slipp'd out of your Memory; tho' my Father was honoured for this with a Gold Chain and Medal, which I yet have. Nay as for my own part, I may boast of some little Service done to your Majesty; you may well remember, how when this Wolf present, and I, had kill'd a fat Swine, you and your Queen came very hungry out of the Forest, where you had been taking the Air, and demanded a Share, but *Isgrim* grumbl'd, and would allow you none of his Part; however, I bestowed mine on you freely; but that not sufficing, you demanded some of his, which he was conveying away, and for his Refusal gave him such a Blow with your Royal Paw, as fetch'd the Skin over his Ears, and then compelled him to hunt for more; when I going with him, we soon found a fat Calf and brought it to you, and it being my Lot to divide it, I gave half to the Queen and half to you; the Intrails I sent to the Princes your Children, giving the Wolf only the Head, and being myself contented with the Feet, which made you ask, Who taught

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taught you to divide so well? To which, pointing at the Wolf's Ears, I replied, That Example before me made me see how to behave my self towards my Betters. This you applauded, and was very much pleas'd at what I had done; but now, by Flatterers and Upstarts, all my past Services are forgotten, and I am trampled on, who having done well, whilst they for doing wickedly, are exalted: There was a time that nothing was done without my Advice, but that is past, and I must be content with my Sufferings.

Well, replied the King, grieve not so much Sir *Reynard*, for that Day may be restored, if you behave yourself as becomes your Birth; I have nothing more to lay to your Charge, but *Keyward's* Death, and and the Disgrace you put upon me in doing it; but *Bellin* being executed, and no Witness to prove it, as to Matter of Fact, I must take your Word that you are innocent, and acquit you,

Upon this the Fox fell on his Knees, and returned him hearty Thanks; vowing, by his Holiness's Toe, none could be more sorry than he for the Death of the Hare: but more particularly for the Loss of the Jewels, which, he said, the treacherous

98 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

Ram had embazelled; but that Search should be made for 'em in all Parts of the World, both by Art Magick and strict Enquiry; which highly pleas'd the King and Queen; so that the Fox was dismiss'd to take his Repose, and make merry with his Friends; whilst the King consulted what should be done for him.

*The Moral.] The Relation the Fox makes of the Jewels, which he knew would be Baits to a covetous Mind, shews a cunning Dissembler, who knows how to blow with all Winds, he well knew if this gained Belief, his Intention of sending 'em to their Majesties would gain his Pardon, which he fancied his seeming Sorrow wou'd work on 'em, upon their Loss, and that his inculcating to the King, his Father's, and his own Services, would much further it; which indeed, is the greatest Insinuation to gain Belief of our Innocence.*

CHAP. VII.

*How the Fox made his Peace with the King; and how he was complained against by the Wolf, whereupon they exchanged Gloves, in order to try their Innocence by Combat.*



THE Fox at this unexpected Deliverance, and Hopes of Advantage, was exceeding joyful, laughing his Enemies to Scorn; which so enrag'd the Wolf, that he resolved to lay new Accusations to his Charge; and therefore when he was call'd into the Council, he stood up and crav'd Audience; which being granted, O my Lord, said *Reynard*, is it possible your Wis-  
dom

100 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

dom should again be deceiv'd by this Traytor, compos'd of all Falshoods and Deceits, to whose Oath there is no Credit to be given : This Villian, notwithstanding he now looks so demure, lately ravish'd my Wife; and put us both in Danger of our Lives : for perswading her to take Fish with her Tail, whilst she, silly Soul, staid so long in a frosty Morning till it was frozen in, he leap'd upon her and ravish'd her before my Face, I being then at a Distance from him; but upon my Approach he ran away, and raised the Village upon us, so that we were desperately wounded, and she freed from the Ice, with the Loss of four Inches of her Tail.

To this the Fox replied, My Lord, It is altogether Untruth as to any Rape; I taught her indeed to catch Fish, and she caught a great Number; but she over greedy, staid too long, till she was frozen in, then she call'd me to help her out, which I labour'd to do with all my Strength, but he, over-jealous of her, seeing me at a distance, suppos'd me over-familiar with her; to avoid whose Fury, I retired; then they ran howling about the Fields to catch 'em a Heat, which made the People come out armed in Pursuit of 'em. This, my Lord



*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 101

Lord is the Truth, and Truth is the Badge of our Family ; which in eight Days I'll prove by sufficient Witnesses.

Then said Dame *Afsewind*, O thou dissembling Villian ! this is not only true, but more ; for finding you once in a Well, got down in a Bucket, I ask'd what you was doing ? and you replied, you had there found so many Fish, that you had almost broke your Belly with 'em, and yet great store was remaining ; then said I, *Reynard*, how may I come to help you to devour 'em ? O Aunt, said you, get into the other Bucket, which is aloft, and you will be presently with me ; so I leap'd in, when by my Weight I descended, and you ascending got out ; then with Taunts and Jears, you left me there, where I narrowly escaped with Life, being found half starved by the Swains, that came to draw Water for their Sheep, who miserably beat me.

Why Aunt, replied the Fox, if this be true, it was but Self-preservation, and there is no Mortal, I think, but would free himself from Trouble, when it lies in his Power to accomplish it ; besides, you were more able to bear the Stroaks than I, being both feeble and tender : In this I have taught you that Wit, never to trust Friendship too

far, before you have tried it, lest you repent your Credulity too late.

Well, Villian, said *Isgrim*, you may triumph over my Wife's Weakness, tho' it becomes you not; but do you remember, Varlet, how you serv'd me with the She-Ape?

I remember, replied the Fox, she gave you due Correction for your Sawciness and Brutality; and, if you please, I will relate the Story before this noble Assembly.

With all my Heart, said *Isgrim*, if you will speak Truth.

Fear it not, said the Fox; And thus my gracious Lord, it happen'd, As I was ranging the Woods, *Isgrim* found me, complaining of Hunger, asking me if I had any thing to give him, or could set any Prey for him; for he is naturally lazy of himself, and will rather undergo the Hazard of starving, than labour, as other Creatures do for their Food: I told him, at that time I could not, and so we travell'd together in various Discourses, till we heard a great roaring in a Hole, under a Tuft of Bussies, where I imagin'd there might be some Prey; thereupon desired him to go in, by reason of his great Strength, to seize it, but he strained Courtesie with me, saying, He was afraid, lest Serpents should lurk there; but

I being wise and subtle, might better avoid the Danger, and he would stay till I returned to give him an Account; so, to please him, I ventur'd, and found there a monstrous She-ape with her Young, the ugliest that ever I beheld, the Place stunk so ominably with their Piss and rotten Litter they lay on; yet being willing to please him with Food, of which I saw great store I spoke her very fair, calling her Aunt tho' indeed, none but *Rukenaw* of that Kind is my Aunt, saying, Much Joy to you and my fair Cousins, your Children; I would have visited you sooner had I known of your Lying in.

Truely, *Reynard*, replied she, I am sorry you find me no better provided; but to such as I have you are heartily welcome.

Then she set before me Vension, and other Provisions, on which I seemed heartily to feed, the better to please her, tho' indeed, the Stench had much impaired my Appetite: Then said she, Nephew, I am glad you are come, being the worthiest and wisest Gentleman in the King's Dominions, that I may recommend the Care of my Children to you, to be train'd up in virtuous and industrious Ways, that they may know how to live, and behave themselves

104 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*  
in the World with Credit.

I told her I would do any thing for her, and the good of my young Cousins at my next visit, which should be very shortly; so being willing to be out of this noisom Place, I made my Compliment of Leave; but she forc'd upon me a side of Venison, to carry to my Wife, which when I came out, I gave to the Wolf who lay howling under a Tree for Meat; but that not half sufficing him, he ask'd if there were any more in the Place? I told him there was, and he might have it, if he could dissemble and give smooth Words; O, said he, let me alone for that: and so he greedily enter'd, yet he had not long been there, but I heard him howl most terribly, and soon after he came rushing out, with his Ears bloody, and his Skin torn in many Parts; for, it seems, he had not only reproach'd her with her own and her Youngs Ugliness but went to take away her Meat by force, wherefore they all fell upon him, and used him as he deserv'd, for so ill timing his brutish Language, since he ought to know according to the old Proverb, That how deformed soever they be, each one esteems her own the fairest. This my Lord, is the Truth of the Matter, and if he can deny it, let him speak.

The

The Wolf hearing this, fell into a great Rage, (for indeed he had been betray'd into that Place by *Reynard*) saying, Thou Traytor, this, as all the rest thou hast alledged, is utterly false; and to justifie it, and that thou art the basest of all Traytors, I will prove upon thy Body by Combat, according as the Laws direct: in Confirmation whereof, I throw down my Gage before the King, if thou darest take it up to answer me.

The Fox doubting his Strength, knew not what to think of it: yet considering the Wolf's Claws, since the last stripping, were not grown again, and contemning to let his Courage fall before so many of his Kindred; and that what he had said might thereupon be suspected, he recollected his Spirits, and starting up, said, Whosoever accused him as a Traytor, was a Liar to his Face, and he would prove it upon his Body by Arms, when, or wheresoever he should be required to it. That do I, said *Isgrim*. Then there, said the Fox, is my Gage to answer thee. These being mutually exchanged, were deliver'd to the King, who allow'd the Combate to be the next Day, and took Sureties of 'em for the performing it.



Dame *Rukenaw* understanding this, came to the Fox, and drawing him aside, after she had commended his Courage, as a Grace to his Family, who had been valiant, doing many brave exploits in Arms, at home and abroad, she proceeded to give him some Council as to this particular Affair, saying, Good Nephew, be attentive to my Advice, and then the Wolf shall not prevail against you

Dear Aunt, replied *Reynard*, your Love and wise Councils have always been so available to me, that I shall not forget the least of your Instructions, but, to the utmost, put in Practice whatsoever you desire. Then she proceeded in this manner.

You must, to make you the nimbler, and not to be laid hold on, have all your Hair shav'd off, except that on the Tail, which you shall reserve to offend your Enemy; then I will fleck you over with an Ointment that shall harden your Skin, and yet make it so slick, that he can never lay hold of you.

This being done, *Reynard* look'd very airy and gay, and so he went to Bed, in great Hopes of obtaining the Victory: Many other Advices she gave him, too tedious here to mention, and not much to the purpose

*The History of Reynard the Fox*  
of the History; but one among the rest, was, That the next Morning he should drink stoutly, the better to expel any Fear; and to piss upon his Tail, and sprinkle it as he saw occasion, thereby to blind the Wolf, and hinder his Pursuit. For this the Fox gave her infinite Thanks, and kept her Councils in his Mind, as resolving to put 'em in Practice.

He slept little that Night for thinking of his next Day's Enterprize; but the Wolf slept soundly, as fancying himself sure of the Victory; by which we may see how Men are often disappointed of their Expectations. In the Morning his Kinsman the Otter came to him, and brought him a young Duck, saying, Take good Heart, and eat this to strengthen you, for great is your Undertaking, and requires your utmost Strength and Policy to acquit yourself nobly.

I thank you for your present Advice, said the Fox, and so they breakfasted together.

*Moral.] By the Wolf's Complaint, is shewed an insatiable Thirst of Revenge for Injuries done him. By the Fox's accepting the Challenge, denotes, that politick Men, tho' weak, are in Expectation to overcome the Strong, that are given up to unadvised Rashness. The She-wolf's Misfortunes*

108 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

*fortunes, denotes, Covetousness brings Danger.  
The Fox's Escape that way, Self-preservation.  
And the She-Ape's Cave, that good Words are  
bitter than bad.*

CHAP. VIII.

*How the Fox entered into Combate with the  
Wolf, and overcome him : And how thereupon  
he was advanc'd by the King to many Honours.*



**A**fter this Refreshment, *Reynard* went, attended by a great number of his Kinsfolks, to enter the Lists, where the Wolf stood raving, and accusing him as a Traytor ; and tho' he had accepted the Challenge, he was so guilty he durst not appear ;

pear; but when they saw him marching very  
stately in that Trim, they star'd on him;  
whereupon the King said, *Reynard*, I see  
you more regard your Safety than your fine  
Apparel. But he only made his Obey-  
sance and pass'd on; then entering the List,  
they were both sworn by the Libard, ap-  
pointed Marshal of the Field, that their  
Causes were right and just; and every one,  
on pain of Death, except the Combatants,  
to avoid the List: And now the King,  
Queen, and Nobles, having taken their  
places, the Trumpets sounded the Signal  
to begin the Combate.

Upon this the Wolf came towards the  
Fox with open Mouth and extended Paws,  
as if he would immediately have devour'd  
him; but *Reynard* nimbly leap'd between  
his Legs, and when he turn'd again upon  
him, he piss'd on his Tail, and dash'd it in  
his Eyes, which so blinded him, that it  
hindred his Pursuit, and in the next Course  
he cast up the Sand with his Hind-feet,  
which sticking to the Urine, put him to  
more Pain, which whilst he was clearing,  
he sprung upon him, and with his Claws  
tore the Skin of his Eye-brow down to the  
middle of his Face, whereupon his Eye  
hung out, and Blood flow'd exceedingly;  
but

but this enrag'd Sir *Isgrim* the more, so that violently falling upon him, he rush'd him to the Ground, and whilst he laboured to get from under him, he catch'd one of *Reynard's* Feet in his Mouth, whereupon he cry'd out, Now Traytor, thou art at my Mercy, confess thy Sins, and all the Injuries done to me, before thou dyest, for now thy End is come.

The Fox finding himself in this piteous Plight, betook him to his Dissimulation, humbly beseeching Mercy, and for sparing his Life, himself, his Family, and whole Estate should be at his Service, to dispose of as he pleas'd; that he would freely confess his Guilt, and be at his Command to bring him Provisions at all times; that he was sorry he had undertaken the Combate against him.

O thou base Dissembler, replied the Wolf, these fair Speeches are made only to escape from the Advantage I have over you, and then you will sing a new Song to my Disgrace; but I have been too often deceiv'd, e'er to trust you more; but will now take my Revenge at full, for the Injuries done to my Wife and myself, which cry aloud for Vengeance.

*Reynard* perceiving there was no good to

be done by Flattery, had, by this time, bethought himself of a Stratagem; and thereupon, putting down his other Foot between the Wolf's Legs, he catch'd him fast hold by the Stones, and made him howl in a lamentable manner, so that the Fox had an Opportunity to free his other Foot, when leaping upon him, he drag'd him about the List, as one half dead, biting and taring him in divers places; so that his Friends beholding in what a sad condition he was, petition'd the King to cause the Combat to cease, and take it into his own Hands for the Decision; of which he accepted, as being unwilling to lose the Lives of either of his Subjects. Then the Marshal went to *Reynard*, and told him, The King would speak with him; and he must, upon pain of high Displeasure, desist from any further Violence towards the Wolf, for he would, no doubt, decree him the Victory.

My Lord, said *Reynard*, whatever the King pleases to command, I yield ready Obedience to. All his Kindred came running to him, and proffered their humble Service; nay, happy was he that could be own'd by him, as knowing he was now on the rising Ground; if he had lost the Victory, they for the most part would have dis-



disown'd him to be any of their Relations : For such is the Fashion of this World, ever to adore the Rising sun ; nay, many embrac'd him with dissembling Affection, and elaimed Kindred of him, who before was his Enemies : so much the Terror of this wrought in their Minds: And thus with a stately Train of about a hundred, or more, he presented himself before the King, falling on his Knees ; but the King commanded him to rise up, saying, *Reynard*, you have cause to rejoyce at this Victory you have obtain'd, contrary to my Expectations, in which you have won much Renown ; therefore seeing Right and Justice declare on your side, I acquit you of all things laid to your Charge, by *Isgrim*, or any other ; and as soon as his Wounds are cur'd, he shall be try'd, if you please.

Upon this the Fox replied, *My Gracious Lord, I have no Malice against him, but his to me has brought him to deserved Punishment ; yet, if your Majesty pleases, I can freely pardon him, and these my Enemies that stand about you, who sided with him when in great Favour with your Majesty, and could raise them to Promotion ; but now they shrink from him, and are asham'd to own him ; they'er like the Kennel of Hounds, who waited for one bold Hound, who went into*

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*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 113

a Lord's Kitchen to steal Provision, he came out, indeed, with a fair Rib of Beef, but the Cook running after him, threw scalding Water on him, that took off his Hair behind, which they, at first, not espying, began to praise him for his Venterfomeness, but seeing how he had suffered, they slunk away from him, and would no more admit him into their Company, lest they should be served in the like manner for partaking with him. These, in like manner have left the Wolf in his Extremity, whom I, tho' he is my cruellest Enemy pity.

This dissembling of the Fox gain'd much Applause, so that he was immediately conducted to the Court, where a noble Feast was prepared for him, with Musick and Rejoycing, every one praising and extolling him for his fortunate Victory: So that now from the Depth of Misery, he was rising to the Pinacle of Honour, every one crouding to offer their Service to him. Then was he exalted on the King's right Hand, who said, *Reynard*, I expect now you should stedfastly keep your Allegiance, and let not my Ears be fill'd with any more Complaints of you, then shall you always govern in this high Station, and I will be guided by your Wisdom; whilst, at my express Command, all the Beasts of the Forest bow as  
you

you pass by 'em, and if any do you Injury, I will highly revenge it : So appoint you chief Justice of all my Territories.

*Reynard's* Kindred, as well as himself, upon hearing this, return'd. the King Thanks ; who told 'em, it was much short of what he intended to do for him ; desiring 'em to admonish him, when they saw him forget himself, as to be inclinable to go astray ; which the She-Ape undertook to do for herself, and all the rest ; saying, She and all the rest would renounce him if he should fail in any thing he had promis'd.

Then said the Fox, *My most Gracious Lord, I am altogether unworthy of the Honours you have beated on me ; yet will I make it the whole study and business of my Life, in some measure, to deserve 'em ; my Council and Dilligence shall never be wanting, either to Advise or Counterplot your Enemies.* This said, upon leave given, departed with all his Kindred for *Malepardus*.

Whilst the Fox was led to the King, the Bear, Cat, and Dame *Arsewind*, remov'd the Wolf out of the Field, he being, thro' Pain, in a deadly Swound, and laying him on clean Litter, dress'd his Wounds, and sent for Cordials that reviv'd him ; but he no-sooner came to his Senses, and remem-  
bred

breed what had happen'd, but he howl'd piteously, not so much for the Smart and Anguish he felt, tho' it was great, as for the Disgrace he had suffer'd, and that he saw his Friends, who flatter'd him in his prosperous Estate, had most of 'em forsaken him, and gone over to the Fox, as thinking with him to be in the warmer Sun: However, those few Friends that were about him comforted him in the best manner, and carried him into his own House, putting him to Bed in a high Fever, occasion'd by his Wounds; of which he was soon recover'd, but, at the Fox's Instigation he was banish'd into *Ireland*, with his Wife and Children, in which Country, he and his Generation have ever since gone howling about the Bogs, Woods and Mountains, often scaring poor *Teague* out of his Senses.

*Reynard*, as I have said, being on his way homeward with a numerous Train of his Kindred, with a Promise speedily to return to Court; they petition'd for Places of Honour and Trust under him; to which, Courtier-like, he made 'em a world of fair Promises, more than ever he perform'd: When he came in sight of his Castle, he saw his Wife and Children standing at the Gate, who

116 *The History of Reynard the Fox.*

who were overjoy'd at his return, and hasted to meet him, embracing and welcoming him and all his Friends; Then he told his Wife of his Success, and the King's Favour to him; how he was advanced to the Height of all Honours, to raise up and pull down who he pleased; commanding her instantly to prepare a sumptuous Banquet; which the She-Ape, and some others help'd her to do, the Task being too great for her alone.

In two Hours time the Table was spread, with Fowl, Fish, and Fruit of all sorts; to which *Reynard* bid his Friends heartily welcome, So they feasted together all that Day, and lay there all Night; and the next Morning *Reynard*, by the Power the King had given him, Knighted his two Sons, *Rossel* and *Reynardine*; and in Honour of their Advancement, prepared another stately Banquet, and then dismissed all those that came with him: And thus being high advanced, he kept his Station in spite of his Enemies, gathering great Wealth, and highly advancing his Children, living many Years in much Fame and Renown; in which I leave him, and conclude the Subject History of this Book, which if well regarded, may not only prove pleasant, but very profitable to the Reader.

*The History of Reynard the Fox.* 117

Moral.] *The Wolf's Fury* here, signifies a Man desperately bent on Revenge, so that his Rage makes him blind, and careless of his Safety, whereby he lies unguarded for his Enemies, who cunningly take advantage over him; which, had he stood upon better Consideration defended, they could not have done. The Fox using his Tail, shews that Policy often overcomes Strength. By the Wolf's catching him by the Foot, is noted, how many Men, not knowing how to make use of their Advantage, overslip it to their Misfortune. By the Fox's Advancement, we see Power comes swiftly when least expected. And by the Beasts siding with him, shews us, that Fear or Hopes of Riches will bring over even our Enemies to our side; yet ought we not to rely on such, longer than our Prosperity lasts. By the Wolf's being left by all but a few, signifies, that none but Relations, or near Friends, who have a Feeling in our Sufferings, will stand by us in the Storms of Adversity. From the Beasts Submission and Earnestness to make Peace with the Fox, we learn, that tho' our siding with a miserable Party, or Cause, be never so just, it is better to forego it, and endeavour a Reconciliation, when we have to do with a powerful Adversary.

The End of the First Part.

The



# The History of Reynardine.

## The Second Part.

### CHAP. I.

*How Reynard, sending his Sons away with his Riches, to hide them, was himself taken and executed for his Treasons. How the Riches were lost, Rossel slain with the Combate between the Bear, Panther and Tyger, about the Spoil, &c.*



**R**eynard the Fox, notwithstanding the late Honours conferred on him by

*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 119

the King, having private Intelligence, by means of the Brock, that the Cheats and Fallacies he had put upon the Royal Lion were discovered, he proclaimed a Traytor, and great Preparations made to apprehend him ; doubting his Safety in the Castle of *Malepardus*, and being grown aged, and unfit for Travel, called to him *Reynardine* and *Rossel*, his two Sons, to whom he communicated the State of his Affairs, bidding them take *Laprel* the Coney with them, for a Guide, and carry his Treasure with them into the Forest of *Longwood*, and there hide it in the Cave *Laprel* would shew them, and remain there to expect the Event of his Fortune ; and to prevent a Discovery, they should kill the Coney as soon as the Treasure was safely stowed : So delivering to them his Riches, and sending some Servants with them to carry it to the Confines of the Forest ; the Sun was no sooner set, but they departed with Tears, which presaged they should never see each other more.

*Reynard's* two Sons had no sooner left him, but his Castle was besieged by the command of the Lion, and all his starting-places so narrowly guarded, that attempting to make his Escape, he was caught by Sir *Bruin* the Bear, his mortal Enemy, and dragged

120 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*  
dragged to the Court, where the Lion giving free License to all that would, to bring their Accusations against him, such great Numbers, whom he had injured appeared, and their Complaints were so grievous, and apparently proved, that the Savage King, without giving him leave to make his Defence, as he had formerly done, least his Flatteries should again make him relent to pardon him, ordered him immediately to be hanged; appointing the Wolf his Executioner. And thus ended *Reynard* the Fox after all his Cunning and Policies, his Days by an untimely Death; which shews, however Men may flatter themselves, there is no State, how great so ever, or cunningly supported, certain upon Earth.

Now whilst these things passed, *Reynard's* Sons had sent away the Servants, and lodged their Treasure only with the help of *Laprel* the Coney, that no more knowing where they had reposed it, it might, as they conceived, be the more assuredly safe; the which, when they had done, the Coney for his Service demanded his Reward; but instead of a Recompence, met with Death, for, surprizingly picking a Quarrel with him, on the account of his mistrusting their Bounty, they fell upon him, slew him

and

and threw his dead Body out of the Cave, thinking themselves now secure, though it soon proved otherwise; for having Notice of their Father's Death, and that they were Proscribed and Banished on Pain of Death never to return to their own Country, fearing least some of the Servants, who had brought the Treasure to the Confines of the Forest, might give notice of it, they resolved to remove it to another Forest, and there to divide it into two Parcels, and live retire, till they could dispose of it to their greater Advantages, in buying honourable Places, or in purchasing their Peace and Freedom of returning home: But as they were doing this, *Corbant* the Rook, whose Wife, *Dame Sharpbeak*, *Reynard* their Father had slain, allured by the Scent of the dead Coney, came flying thither, and knowing who they were, secretly watched, unseen to them. whither they carried the Treasure; and then, taking Wing, flew up and down the neighbouring Forests till he found out *Bruin* the Bear, *Truculem* the Tyger, and *Versute* the Panther, preparing early in the Morning to go a Hunting; to these, with much Joy, he revealed what he had seen, promising them, for a tenth Part of the Riches, to shew them the place

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where

122 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*  
where it was lodged.

To this they easily and joyful consented, desiring instantly to be conducted thither; *Corbant* delayed not to do it, and by that time they arrived there, the Sun was setting, when having pointed to the places, by flying with his Beak against them, the Bear immediately entered *Reynardine's* Cave, which he perceiving, and finding not only his Riches, but that also his Life would become a Prey to that mortal and implacable Enemy of his Family, if he was taken by him, he immediatel bolted through a Retreating-hole, and fled with all speed possible for his safety.

The Bear having seized and brought forth the Treasure, he proceeded to *Rossel's* Cave; who upon the Bear's entering, being of a fiery Temper, and much less cunning than his Brother, resolved to defend his Treasure, or lose his Life; so flying at Sir *Bruin* with his sharp Teeth, he caught him fast by the Nose, and bit him so grievously, that he roared out terribly; whereat the Tyger came rushing in, and immediately slew poor *Rossel*, throwing his dead Body out of the Cave, and removing all the Treasure to a distant Forest, where they fell to sharing it by Lots, till a rich Crown, exceeding bright, set with Jewels, appear-

*The History of Reynardine the Fox* 123  
ing amongst the Spoils, every one coveting to have it, and not agreeing, the Contelt grew so hot, that a bloody Combate ensued, with wild Uproar and Noise, so that Noble, the Lion Prince, Son to the King, being abroad with his Guard taking the Air in the Forest, hearing it, made thither, and soon, by his Presence and Commands, parted the Fray; then being inform'd of the Cause of their Difference, he told them, he would end the Cause of their Strife; and so taking up the Crown, set it on his own Head; none daring to contradict it; tho' they flattered him, in hopes to have it again, with the present of a large Gold Chain, but it proved ineffectual for he carried the Crown to the Court, and there presented it to his Royal Father, as will more fully hereafter appear.

*Moral.] By Reynard's being taken at last and executed, it appears, that tho' evil Men may escape for a time, Mischief will certainly overtake them in the end. The loss of the Treasure, signifies, ill got Gains prosper not. By the Bear, &c. falling out in dividing the Spoil, and the Lion's taking the Crown, shews Covetousness and Ambition will in the end most certainly bring both Sorrow and Strife.*



## C H A P. II.

*How Reynardine, in his Travels, met the Brock, and what Council he gave him. How the Lion, upon seeing the Crown, presaged the Ruin of his Family, which so fell out. How the Fox entered into Religious Orders, had a hard Pennance ordered him for Thieving, which made him run away. How he preached to a Flock of Geese, &c.*



**R**eynardine, as is said, having escaped with Life, thought he lost his Treasure, flying by many obscure Ways, coming into the Kingdom of Zalap, there he met with his Cousin Grimbard the Brock, whom he saluted, and

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The History of Reynardine the Fox. 125

making himself known to him, told him of the Loss; and the Danger he had escaped; desiring him to advise him how he might be safe for the future.

To this the Brock replied, Dear Cousin, you ask a proper Question; for this Country being open, and full of People, who take Pleasure in Hunting, and destroying us poor Beasts, it will be proper I shew you the Holes under Ground that you may escape upon any Pursuit, or else, your Life will be always in danger. Nay then, said the Fox, I wish I had not come into this Country, but still remained amongst Woods and Forests, places of surest Retreat; but being here, I now submit to be advised and guided by you in all things.

Hereupon the Brock shewed him many Skulking-holes, and places of Retreat: yet Reynardine, hearing the Cries of Hounds, and Shouts of Hunters from many places, began to tremble, and seemed not to like them as sufficient Refuges in time of Danger; and therefore desired his Kinsman to think of some other way for his continuing in Safety. Truly, replied the Brock, I know none, unless you will enter into Religious Orders; there you may live fat and plentifully among the Monks, and Fryers, if you can endure the Austerity of their Lives. Alas, said the Fox, what I will willingly under-

126 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*  
take, rather than be every moment in Jeopardy  
of my Life.

Upon this the Brock procured him a Pilgrim's  
Weed to pass the better undiscovered, and bid  
him follow him to the Abby of Manton, where  
he would interceed with the Prior to receive him;  
where I must leave them on their way, and fol-  
low the young Lion to the Court.

The young Lion having carried the Crown  
with him, as is said, he presented it to his Fa-  
ther, who looked wishfully on it, groaned with-  
in himself, as calling to mind a Prophecy, that  
when that Crown should be found and presented  
him, the Day of Death drew near, and soon  
after it his Posterity should utterly fail from the  
Kingdom; wherefore he willed him to take it  
from his sight, and lock it up in a secret place,  
where none might ever see it, or come to wear  
it: This the Prince obeyed, and soon after his  
Father died, and he succeeded, as his eldest Son,  
King of Beasts; but his Brother Haughty,  
conspiring with the Bear, Tyger, and Panther,  
slew him, and soon after was slain himself, and  
so ended that Race, as their Father had predic-  
ted.

During these Transactions, Reynardine was  
come to the Monastery of Manton, and there ta-  
king leave of the Brock, went to crave Admit-  
tance, and made his Apology so well to the Prior,  
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*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 127

that he was kindly received, and admitted to enter on his Probation; wherein he behaved himself so modestly, and seemingly devout, that the Prior highly approved of him, and placed him under the Cook, to serve in the Kitchen; at which he greatly rejoiced, as knowing here he should stuff his Gut well; but so many things were pilfered and stole, that he accusing others, was himself accused, who was, indeed the Thief; yet he bore it out stoutly, till one Day he was caught by the Prior, who watched thro' a private Peep-hole, going off with a whole Carp in his Sleeve, yet, upon his Submission, his Penance was allotted to fast two Days, and to live in a lonesome Cell, without the Gates of the Monastery.

This hard Usage so angered the Fox, that soon after he gave them the slip with his Religious Habit; but having travelled far, and growing very hungry, at last he espied a Flock of Geese in a Pond, where he could not come at them without fear of drowning, and therefore to decoy them on Land, in a demure manner, begins to Preach to them; the silly Geese seeing him in that Habit, and, to appearance, so devoutly penitent, had no Mistrust of him, left the Water, and came foolishly gagging round about him, desiring to see his Book, that they might say an Ave Maria, which he willingly shewed them; but

whilst they were poring on it, at two snaps he bit off two of their Heads, which so affrighted the other, that they ran screaming into the Pond again, and kept themselves in the Deep, till they saw him greedily gorge his Paunch on their Fellows Carcases.

Well knowing how he should be pursued, as indeed he was, by the Monks and Owners of the Geese, he left that Province, and returned again to Zalap; there fell to Shrivving a prael of Ferrets, for which they were to steal him a Nest of Rabets; after that an Ass for a Bundle of Straw; but the former was caught by the War-riner, and condemned to perpetual Imp-isonment; and the latter soundly drubbed by the Owner of the Straw, upon his entering the Barn to fetch it; whilst the Fox laughed heartily, to see what Fools he had made them, and into what Danger they were brought; and after having Shrivven many others, and got store of Food from them, in promise of Indulgenices upon his return from the Pope. Now as he travelled he met the Brock, whom he very kindly saluted, telling him all his Adventures, and what had beset him from their parting, and great was the Rejoycing between them; when travelling onwards, they came to the Palace of Sir Firelapel the Libard, who lying sick, and having Notice by his Servant, that a Priest approached, desired he might come

*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 129

in and Confess him ; when in Confession, he declared he had been chiefly instrumental in bringing Reynard the Fox, to the Gallows ; this Reynardine stomached exceedingly, but conceal'd himself and his Resentments to a fitter Opportunity, which wrought the Libard's Destruction.

Going from hence, one Evening, intending to rob a Farmer's Barn of a fat Pullet, the Train of his Gown was caught in a Trap, and upon the Alarm it gave, he was forced to leave it behind him and flie for his Life, which put an end to the Fox's Priesthood ; who, by that borrowed Shape and seeming Sanctity, had deluded many silly Beasts.

Moral.] *The Lion's Presage of Destruction to his Family on sight of the Crown, signifies, we ought even to shun the sight of things that threaten Danger, and may prove fatal to us. The Fox's taking on him a Religious Life, and his Proceedings therein, shews how crafty Men, under such Pretences, delude the Ignorant. His losing his Gown, signifies, such Deceivers are at last laid open, and fall idto Disgrace and Contempt.*



## CHAP. III.

*How the Fox flying, almost starved, by a Stratagem cheats the Wolf of his Prey, then flies; and, by the Advice of the Ape, turning Physician, poisons Sir Fireiapel the Libard, to revenge his Father's Death; the Ape is hang'd, but he flies; and, in Disguise, endeavours, by the means of Grimlook the Mastiff, to enter the Monastery of Manton, but is discovered by Brindle.*



**T**HE Fox had no sooner left his Religious Habit, but he became despised and persecuted by those that had adored him in that Disguise; so that wanting the  
fat

*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 131

fat Morfels they were wont to supply him withal, he grew in great Distress and Poverty, much bewailing the loss of his Gown, which, had he kept, would have been an Estate to him; for under that he deceived whom he ~~list~~ but now he was dispised by all, and threatned with Death, though he alledged he was their very Priest, but that his Gown was stolen from him while he laid it aside to Fast and Pray; But finding this not believed, and fearing in a Mutiny, to lose his Life, he gave those that watched him the slip, and wandred a long time, starved almost in the Woods; when ranging one Morning, he espied, from a Hill, *Isgrim* the Wolf, who had just killed a Pig; the Fox knowing the Enmity between him and his Father, stood long musing whether he should dare to go to him or not, and beg a Supply; at last Necessity urged him, rather to hazard, than certainly die by starving; and so, in a most humble manner, though under a crafty Guise, approached Sir *Isgrim*, and, in a fair Tone, said, Dear Cousin, can you tell me where a Leech lives, that I may go to him for Physick? Cousin me, no Cousins, replied the Wolf sternly, I am no Kin to you, but scorn you and all your treacherous Race; how-

132 *The History of Reynardine the Fox*  
however, I'll venture so much Kindness to-  
wards you, to ask you what you ail.

Alas, said the Fox, meeting with a di-  
licious Booty, I have eaten so much, that  
I am even ready to burst: What delicious  
Booty was it? said the Wolf; I have been  
hunting all this barren Country o'er and  
could find nothing, but what I ventured  
my Life for, in leaping a Styre for this poor  
Pig, fighting first the sharp-twanged Sow,  
and, e'er I could bear it off, the Farmer's  
Men, alarum'd by her Cries, fell on me,  
in my flight, and almost broke my Bones;  
and you well know, could I have got any  
thing else, I wou'd not have ventured so  
for Swine's Flesh, which I least of all e-  
steem:

Truly, replied *Reynardine*, the Prey that  
I found, were a couple of fat Lambs, whe-  
ther droped by some Cart that were car-  
rying them to Market, or that they had  
strayed thither, I know not: but sure I  
am, I took them napping and slew them  
both, then dragging them into a dry Ditch,  
under a Quickset-hedge, so I gorged my  
self with their Blood, and some of their  
Intrails, that I am surfeited. Ah, said the  
Wolf smiling, Fasting and Action will soon  
recover you, without running the Danger  
of

*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 133  
of being kill'd by a Physician: But Cousin,  
said he, very lovingly embracing him,  
seeing you can eat no more of this Prey,  
before it be tainted and spoil'd, if you  
will be so kind as to direct me to it, you  
will bind me to you for ever, and make  
me forget all the Wrongs your Father has  
done me, for there is nothing in the World  
I like better than Lamb.

The Fox finding he had work'd his Ends,  
directed him to the Place, with all the  
Marks and Tokens where he should find  
this imaginary Prey, about a League dis-  
tant; the credulous Wolf, not scrupling the  
Truth of it, left the Pig half eaten, the Fox  
feigning to sleep till his return, and posts  
to the place; in the meanwhile *Reynardine*  
filled his hungry Belly, and then posted a-  
way with speed, crossing many Ways, to  
avoid the Fury of the Wolf, who, having  
in vain sought for the supposed Lambs, re-  
turned in great Fury to take Revenge on  
the Fox for deluding of him, and finding  
he had devoured the Prey he left behind  
him, he howl'd out many greivous Curses  
against him; but searching in all places of  
the neighbouring Forest could not find  
him; for *Reynardine*, fearing the Event,  
had earthed himself.

The

The Fox having staid in the Hole till it was dark, knowing the Wolf was then gone to rest, crept out, and posted with all speed to the Province of *Ferraria*, there, early in the Morning, he met *Grimbard* the Brock, and relating to him all that had passed, since they parted last, desiring his Council, to help him to some business whereby he might sustain himself; but thinking of none, he recommended him to Dame *Arsewind* the She-Ape, who liv'd in a Cell near adjoining; she immediately perswaded him to turn Physician, since Dr. *Simpleton*, the Ass, had taken up that Profession and gotten great Gains by it: And so habiting himself accordingly, he throve mightily upon it, which made *Simpleton* repine; but the Fox, being much the cunninger, increased in Fame, so that Sir *Firelapel* heard of it, and sent for him; but the malicious Fox, remembring his Father's Death, having got a great Reward, gave him so great a Dose of Opium, that it made him, sleep his last; but soon after the Ape and he falling out about parting the Money, she left him, and discovered the Murder, but not being able to prove it, yet confessing herself accessary to it, she was hang'd. Then *Reynardine* chose *Tybert* the Cat for his

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136 *The History of Reynardine the Fox,*  
and Senior Monks, that he might be admitted; to this *Grimlook* told him, he could not, for he was out of his Place, but he would recommend him to his Cousin *Brindle*, who was then Porter. This he did, but though *Reynardine* had changed his Name to *Shifter*, *Brindle* knew him, tho' he said nothing, and promised to do what had been proposed, but fearing at last it was a Plot between *Grimlook* and the Fox, to work him out of his Place, he discovered all to the Prior, who not only refused *Reynardine's* Admittance, but for ever banished *Grimlook* for having any entrance into the Monastery, which before he had, by a private Hole, which on this occasion was stopped up.

Moral.] *The Fox being despised upon the Loss of his Religious Habit, shews, that Hypocrites and Dissemblers when found out, are hated, tho' never so much praised before. His cheating the Wolf, shews, that Policy in many cases, is more advantageous than Strength. His turning Physician, denotes, how easily People are to be deluded by fair Pretences.*

*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 137

*How the Fox is the Habit of a Stranger, entertained by Loed Versute the Panther, and by what means he poisoned him, to revenge his Brother's Death; and then, for the dissembling Sorrow he expressed, the King made him one of his Purveyors. How, lest he should be discovered, he made away the Brock, the Cat, and Grimlook the Mastiff. How he is known by Brindle, and accused to the King, &c.*

**R**eynardine now again put to his Shifts, gets privately into the Forest of *Ferraria*, and putting on a cast Habit he found there, went to the Palace of the Lord *Versute* the Panther, and by many fair Words, got to be entertained in his Service, pretended he was a Stranger well born, but travelling, had been robbed of all his Wealth; telling them many strange Stories of his Travels, partly true and partly false, too tedious here to be recited; and here the better to disguise himself, he went by the Name *Crabron*, and so insinuated into the Panther's Favour, that his chief Servant, who waited on him, being call'd to serve the King in a very eminent Station, he was preferred to that Place, using great  
Dili-

138 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*  
Diligence to please his Lord, though Revenge was his Aim, for the Death of his Brother *Ressel*, and the Loss of his Father's Treasure ; which, as you have heard, the Panther was mainly instrumental in ; nor was it long e'er an opportunity was put into his Hands to execute his Designs : For the Panther falling grievous sick, Dr. *Affino*, Brother to *Simpleton* the Ass, was sent for, who had supplied his Brother's Place, and was no wiser than himself : This Ass-doctor gave his Patient many Potions, but to little purpose : for the Panther being grievously surfeited by devouring a Stag he had run down, and withal his Body very foul, his Stomach was forely afflicted and tormented : *Affino* not knowing what further to do to give him Ease, or any ways to relieve him : The Fox understanding this, was exceeding joyful, and coming into the Presence of the Panther, while the Ass-doctor was gone to take care of the Medicines, least any one should play some evil Trick in his Absence : But the Fox's Design being Michief and Destruction, he in the Night-time, infused a deadly Bane into it, which, upon taking, soon kill'd the Panther, who died in great Torment ; and tho' they were both of them vehemently suspected, yet accord-

*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 139

according to the common Rule of pretended ignorant Quacks, they strongly alledged, That the Panther being old, his time was come, which had it not, a Medicine so excellently prepared, had wrought his Recovery ; using many Allegations to prove it by the Rules of Physick and Nature, and the Fox, the better to excuse himself, lamented his Death extreamly, to appearance, often going to his Grave, and there shedding feigned Tears ; so that at length he was not only concluded Innocent, but much commended for the great Love they supposed he bore his deceased Lord ; and the King hearing of it, sent for him to Court, and made him his Purveyor.

The Fox thus raised, begins to fear every one that had formerly known him in Disguise, least they should betray him, and therefore resolved, as fast as he could, to make them away, that they should tell no Tales : his first Project was to betray the Cat to a place, where in hopes of Mice, she was strangled in a Snare, and when dead, the Fox buried him privately, that the thing might not be known, nor enquired into : *Grimlook* the Mastiff, who knew him, as having discovered himself to him in hopes of getting into the Monastery, was the  
next

140 *The History of Reynardine the Fox,*  
next whose Life he aimed at; and thus he  
contrived his Death, having found a deep  
Well in the Forest, with much Water in it,  
laid Reeds and rotten Sticks a-cross it, and  
upon them Earth, and then green Grass and  
Leaves, as a Carpet, thither he conveyed  
Marrow-bones, and one, above the rest,  
with much Flesh on it, and invited *Grim-*  
*lood* to Dinner; who overjoyed at the op-  
portunity, as being out of Place, and very  
hungry, accepted the supposed kind Offer,  
and being led by *Reynardine* to the place,  
he had no sooner leaped on it with all his  
weight, as greedy to catch the Prey, but  
down sunk he and the Banquet together  
into the Well; where, howling for help in  
vain, the Fox tumbled great Stones upon  
him and drowned him, then covering the  
place, returned to Court, rejoicing, as  
now supposing he was rid of all those  
that could impeach him, or bring him into  
Danger; but while he was hugging him-  
self in this good Luck, *Brindle*, for Theft,  
being expelled the Monastery at *Manton*,  
came into the Forest to seek his Living,  
and finding the Fox high in Favour, would  
have scraped Acquaintance with him, but  
he utterly denied ever to have known him;  
which so incensed *Brindle*, that he resolved

to discover his true Name to the King, and accordingly did, with all the Circumstances how he had caused himself to be disguised, and came to the Monastery of *Manton*, and how he was known there, and denied Admittance : Upon this *Crabron*, the disguised *Reynardine*, was sent for, and charged by the King, on the Words of *Brindle*, as a *Traitor* ; but he stoutly denied all, alledging, That it was *Malice* in the *Mastiff*, because he had not preferred him according to his Desire. This so enraged *Brindle*, that without considering he was in the King's Presence, he fell upon the Fox, and had killed him, had he not been taken off.

For this Indiscretion he was committed to Prison ; during his being there, the Fox devised to make him away, and habiting himself like a Lord's Servitor, he brought him Food, as from his Lord, which the *Mastiff*, without Suspicion, eating, soon died, with all the Symptoms of Poison, but none yet knew who did it.

Moral.] *The Fox's entering into the Panther's Service, and poisoning him, denotes a revengeful Person, who, under the greatest Shew of Friendship, hides his Malice till he can execute*



*The History of Reynardine the Fox.*  
cute his Vengeance. His betraying Grimlook,  
and poisoning Brindle, denotes, that when we  
suspect our Guilt will be discovered, base Means  
are used to prevent it.

#### CHAP. V.

*The Fox was again question'd, found Guilty,  
and condemned; but reprieved upon promise  
to discover a vast Treasure; how the Lucher  
is sent with him to fetch it, but the Fox gives  
him the slip, and flies again to Zalap.*

**T**HE Fox, by this time, well knowing  
that *Brindle* was dead, appeared ear-  
ly in the Presence of the King, and desired,  
that now what he had to say in excuse of  
Yesterday's Accusation might be heard:  
The King told him it should, when the  
Witness appeared, who was immediately  
sent for; but, instead of bringing him,  
the Goaler came to excuse his Death; say-  
ing he was poisoned; and that he verily  
believed, by all Circumstances, he had been  
the occasion of it himself: For, says he,  
I offered him Food Yesterday, but he would  
eat none, raving at a strange rate, till a  
Stranger came, whom I suppose, was his  
Confederate in the Mischief, and from him  
he took Food and eat it greedily.

The

The King hearing this strange Story, was much perplexed, and shrewdly suspected his Servant *Crabron* had a hand in it, but having no Proof, he held his Peace for a time.

The Fox now supposing he was safe, all being destroyed that could accuse or discover him; in the midst of all his Jolity, was dashed by the arrival of *Lightfoot* the Greyhound, who has lived in the Monastery of *Manton*; of him the King enquired, Whether ever he knew one *Reynardine*, that had been an Officiate in the Monastery? To this he replied, He had, indeed, heard of such a one's being there, and of the Pranks he had plaid; which agreeing with what *Brindle* had said, increased the King's Suspicion, especially when confirmed by *Quickscam* the Lurcher, that came from the said Monastery; so, whatever Excuses *Crabron*, or the disguised *Reynardine* could make, the King's Anger encreasing, he resolv'd to extort a true Confession out of him, which he seemed to decline, by racking him: *Crabron* hearing his Degree, begged heartily to have it excused, and greatly urged his Innocency; but could not prevail, for the King's Suspicion more and more increasing, he ordered four strong Beasts to take

144 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*  
take him and draw his Limbs divers ways,  
and not to leave off till he had confessed  
the truth.

This Punishment being immediately put  
in execution, *Craborn* crying out very griev-  
ously, as if he had been torn in sunder,  
though, to say the truth, he was little  
hurt, yet his Tormentors not leaving off,  
thinking he should at last be killed in ear-  
nest, with a mournful Voice he begged to  
be delivered out of their Hands, and he  
would freely confess all. This being or-  
dered, he, instead of performing it, pro-  
ceeded only to excuse himself of not know-  
his Accusers, or ever being in the Country  
where the Monastery stood; which much  
inraged the King, but for that time he  
thought it sufficient to commit him to  
strong Ward in Prison, and on the Morrow  
cause him to be racked again, till he clear-  
ly confessed the truth of the matter.

Upon this the Fox was carried off, griev-  
ously complaining he should die with the  
Anguish of his Tortures, for his Limbs  
were all disjoynted, but this served only  
as a Pretence to make his Guards the more  
careless of him, that he might the better  
make his Escape, which accordingly he  
did; for being lodged in the Ground-room  
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*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 145

of the Prison, and strongly locked and bolted in, whilst his Goalers slept, he dug a Hole under the Foundation of the Wall, and creeping through it, fled; but they for their Drowsiness paid very dear, the incensed King causing them, the next Day, to be executed, as Traytors, for conspiring with *Crabron*, and furthering his Escape to plot new Treasons against his Royal Crown and Dignity; all they could alledge not availing them.

The Fox having escaped thus luckily, travelled all Night, till he came into the Forest of *Pitwood*, where Sir *Chanticleer* the Cock, with his numerous Progeny, held his Residence, of whom he made a grievous Spoil, till, at last, the old Cock suspecting who he was, hasted to young Sir *Firelapil*, and made him acquainted with his thoughts; this young Gallant knowing the King's Proclamation was out against the Fox, with Promise of a great Reward and Preferment to those that should apprehend him, acquainted the King with it, and undertook to seize him and bring him to Court with him; yet *Quickscent* following his footing, after a tedious Race, run him down and took him; at this the Libard grinned, knowing his Honour was eclips'd

thereby, therefore he took the Fox by force from the Lurcher, and made him his Prisoner; but the Bear, Wolf and Hanna envying him that Advantage, fell upon him to take the Prisoner from him; but the two last of these he slew, and put the first, sore wounded, to flight; in the mean while the Fox had escaped, had not the Lurcher had a watchful Eye over him, and taken him on fresh Pursuit. Then he was brought to Court, where the King upbraided him with his Father's, and his own Treacheries, and ordered him immediately to the Gallows, placing a Writing on his Head of the several Names he had gone by to deceive and betray the Beasts of the Forest.

When he was ascending the Ladder, he made a free Confession of all his Crimes he had committed, except the Murders, which he laboured to excuse; and then to insinuate himself with the King, in expectation of Pardon, he made a long feigned Story of an infinite Mass of Treasure not yet discovered, giving a large Catalogue of Jewels, Rings, Gold-chains, and Money; then seemly offered himself to Death, without telling the place where they lay: To this the King began to harken attentively, yet

yet doubred it was a dissembling to save his Life; yet Covetousness prompting him eagerly to thrust after so great Riches, he, upon *Craborn's* solemn Oath that all was true, caused him to be taken from the Gallows and returned to Prison, till he had considered the matter, whether it might be true or not; and demanding if it could not be taken up without him, he being kept as a Pledge for the Certainty of its being there; No, replied the Fox, for it was secured by one *Adriman* an Inchanter, who is now dead, and the Spell is so strong, that without it be dissolved by Sacrifices, which I must offer, it cannot be taken up.

The King hearing him name *Adriman*, and that he was dead, resolved, for a better Confirmation of the Truth of the whole matter, to know whether there was such a Person, and thereupon sent with speed to enquire, which proving so, and that he was dead, made him the easier credit the rest: then calling the Lurcher, he commanded him to go with the Fox and see the Treasure, but besure to watch him narrowly, least he gave him the slip: This he undertook, and so away they travelled, early in the Morning, to the Forest of *Longwood*, and the Fox pretending to be near the place,



148 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*  
made a Circle, and prepared his Sacrifices, which were to be offered up unto *Fortune, Venus, Mars, Mercury, and Pluto*, five several Days in five several Circles; but on the first Day the Lurcher being tired out by walking so long to watch the Fox, who himself slept soundly a Nights, could hold up no longer, but falling asleep, the Fox took the Advantage he had look'd for, and secretly stole away; which when the Lurcher, starting from his sleep, found, he hunted and beat the Forest about, but all in vain, for *Reynardine* was got beyond his reach; so that after a tedious and fruitless Search, with Fear, Shame and Anger he returned again to the Royal Court at *Saxden*.

**Moral.** By the Fox's feigning hidden Treasure, denotes, crafty Men, by Policy, escape Danger, when Strength fails them. The Lyon-giving Credit to it, and saving his Life, denotes, Covetousness over-ballances Justice, and corrupts the Judge. By the Fox's pretending to Sacrifices, shews, that Religion, as a Cloak, is often pretended, to cover intended Frauds, and notorious Villanies, &c.

CHAP. VI.

*How the Lurcher's returning without the Fox, angers the King, and causes him to put out his Proclamation for apprehending him. How many Beasts went in search of him, and the Mischief that befel them by the means of the Brock. How the Fox is taken by the Ass and escapes, leaving him in Slavery, and what after befel on that Account. In what manner the Fox lived till he was again taken by the Lurcher.*

**T**HE King finding himself thus deluded by the Fox, was exceeding angry, blaming much the Lurcher, but more himself, for crediting so cunning a Dissembler; yet resolving to be revenged, he put out his Proclamation, encouraging the Pursuit of him with promise of Reward and Honours; so that a number of Beasts hastened to the Kingdom of Zalap, whether they suspected him to be gone; each posting several ways to outstrip each other, as fearful, by coming too late, to lose this Honour; and with them went the Brock, the Fox's Friend, to give him private Notice of the Dangers, if he might find him out without any others knowing it; and in-

deed he had the luck to do it, as knowing well what kind of places he used to lurk in, in such eminent time of Danger, and gave him Notice of all that had passed, and what Beasts were come out in Search of him ; as the Tyger, the Boar, the Horse, Goat, Bull, Camel, *Witless* the Ass, Brother to the Ass-doctor, and many others.

To this *Reynardine*, for so now must I call him again, replied, I fear not all these, dear Cousin, so much as I do *Quickscent* the Lurcher, if he be not with them to scent me out, I am safe enough. Indeed, said the Brock, I had forgot him, he is here ; but I'll quickly send him upon a false Rumour : I'll raise a great way off, that he may not yet get the Scent of you, when you are disposed to travel abroad ; and so contrive it with the rest, that most of them shall repent their coming in search of you.

The Fox here upon heartily thank'd him, and brought out a young Pheasant he had newly taken, on which they supped and were merry, and a little before Day the Brock left him, and laboured to draw the Beasts from his Hole, and by crafty Devices, sent them to such places to search, that they either fell into Snares, Slavery, or were many of them slain by the Country People.

*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 151

However, the Fox hearing more were coming, and being scanty of Provision, went to the Palace of Squire *Careless*, and entertained himself as a Servant to him, upon Condition he might have Liberty to walk about the House, and not be chained as many of his Kindred were.

This being agreed on, having made Friendship with the Mastiffs of the Place, he lived in great Plenty for a time ; but one Day as he lay basking in the Sun in the Court-yard asleep, the Dogs being likewise asleep in the Kennels, after full Bellies, *Witless* the Ass coming by, and peeping over the Wicker, espied the Fox ; then setting his Arse against it, he forced it open, and entring, surprized the sleeping Fox, running away with him, in great haste in his Mouth, unseen of any Body : The Fox finding himself thus tricked by the Ass, began gently to flatter and entreat him, saying, he was exceeding glad, since it must be, that he was fallen into the Hands of so courteous and generous a Person, to whom, when he first heard the Proclamation, he would willing have surrendred himself, could he have conveniently found him, praising his Understanding and prudent Conduct to the Skies ; so that the

Ass thinking all real, protested he was sorry now he had taken him, and would let him go, were it not that he expected to be made a Lord for taking him; which Honour he had along time extreamly coveted, that he might out-brave his Kinsman the Doctor, who, being rich, looked shie, and scorned him for his Poverty. The Fox heartily thanked him for his good Meaning towards him; but desired to know how they should do to shift for Provision in their Way to the Court, considering it would take them up eight Days. As for me, said the Ass, every Lane will afford Thistle and Boughs; but for you, who are wont to live on Flesh, I know not how you will fair, unless you make Provision to carry with you. That I have done, said the Fox, for about Mile in our Way, I have a Store-house, where I have laid up Provisions against any time of Necessity that may fall out: and if you be pleased to carry so much as is needful for me, you will exceedingly oblige me. Yes, said the Ass, with a very good Will: come, let us hasten on our Journey, and I will do you all the Service I can; nor would I have been instrumental in this your Misfortune, had it not been in hopes to have been a Lord.

*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 153

Lord. Upon this they set forward, discourfing together on their Way of divers matters, till walking by a Park fide, with high Pails, the Fox efpied a convenient Hole ; then faid he, glad of the Opportunity, In this place is my Provifion, I have it in a Wallet, ftay you here and I will fetch it instantly. The Afs was loath to trust him at fuch a Difadvantage ; but before he could reply, the nimbly Fox whipped in, and then it was to no purpofe to argue.

However, the Afs in Expectation of his Return, which he intended not, ftood waiting, refting his Nofe on the top of the Pails, which was as much as he could reach when he ftood on his Hind-feet, fo that it was impoffible for him to leap over : Now the mean while the Fox hafted to the Wood-man, that was lopping in the neighbouring Foreft, faying, Sir Wood-man, I bring you the rareft News you can wifh for. What is that ? fays the Woodman. Why, replied he, yonder is a ftrange wild Afs without an Owner, fat, lufky, and of a large fize, that will, if you take him, do you great Service in carrying Wood or other Burthens, much to the eafe of your own Labour. Where is he ? faid



154. *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*  
the Wood-man. Let me but see him, and  
I'll halter him, I'll warrant you, and soon  
make him tame : and for your Kindness in  
shewing me him, when ever you chance to  
be hunted, make into this Forest, and I  
will do my Endeavour to secure you from  
the Fury of the Hounds.

The Fox thanked him, and immediately  
led him to the Place where the As's stood  
Braying, or in As's Language calling out,  
*Sir Reynardine, Sir Reynardine*, make haste,  
that we may proceed on our Journey.

The Wood-man, upon this, coming slyly  
behind him, creeping under the shelter of  
the Bank, so that he could not be seen of  
the As's, all on a sudden, to the As's great  
Surprize, clapped a strong Haltar about  
his Neck, fastning it immediately to a  
strong Post that upheld the Pails, and tho'  
the As's struggled and brayed hideously, all  
was in vain, the more he struggled, the  
more the Wood-man cudgelled him ; till  
quite tired, and sore bruised, he was forced  
to lie down, and submit himself to his  
Mercy.

The Fox seeing this, laughed heartily,  
to think how he had taken his Taker ; yet,  
not appearing in sight, he lay close to see  
the As's carried away, and then posted back  
to

*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 155

to Squire *Careless's* House, arriving there before he was missed; and soon after he had the pleasure to see *Witlefs*, with other Asses, come laden with heavy Bundles of Wood on a Pack-saddle, into the Courtyard; the Wood-man serving the Squire with Fuel.

Coming to him, he thus saluted him; My Lord *Witlefs*, I am glad to see you invested in your new Honour; your Coat of Arms methinks, suits you rarely well, and your other Accoutrements are very splendid; I have seen many, but none like it for Beauty and Gayness. Hah! the Packsaddle and Cross-sticks in a green Field, emblazoned with a Haltar and Girths; 'tis all admirable! above what your Lordship's Ancestors durst pretend to.

The Ass hearing these Taunts, verily believed he had betrayed him into Slavery, and therefore, in a Fury, ran at him to trample him under his Feet, with loud Brayings; but the Fox, being nimble, skipped into the hole of his Kennel, lay close, and saw the Ass severely banged for breaking his Girths in struggling, and letting the Wood fall about the Yard: And though the Ass laboured hard to excuse it; and accuse the Fox of Treachery; yet the Wood-

156 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*  
Wood-man not understanding his Language, exasperated by his Braying, beat him but the more ; so that finding himself in a piteous plight, he was forced to be mute : and upon his return, grievously complained to his Fellow-asses of his hard Usage ; who bid him be of good Comfort, since he was not yet acquainted with his Master's Humours, which when he was, and he knew how to please him, his Condition would be more tollerable, as themselves they said had proved : For, said one of them, tho' he be a little rough, he is a careful Provider for us ; for in the hard times of Winter, when there is nothing growing that is pleasant to feed on, he will rob all the Barns and Stacks within ten Miles, to get us Provinder, and load us home with it, to our great Satisfaction, when other Asses, turn'd to shift on a Heath or Common, are ready to perish with Cold and Hunger. This Discourse a little comforted *Witless*, and made him bear his Slavery the better, which he did not so much stand upon, as that he had of being made a Lord.

Moral.] *By the unfortunate ends of the Fox's Pursuers, for the most part, signifies, Men that are too forward to seek the ruin of others, fall into ruin themselves. By the Brock, is signified, that among*  
man

## *The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 157

*many Enemies, one may find a true Friend. The Ass's taking the Fox, signifies, Ignorance aided by Strength, may on a Surprise, overcome the Witty; by the Fox's deluding the Ass and bringing him into Slavery, signifies, in the end, that Policy is better than Strength, and ever a secure Foundation to build on; for without the latter, the former stands not long:*

### C H A P. VII.

*How Squire Carelets Breaking, the Fox entered into the Service of one Gripepenny, a miserable Miser; the Agreement he made with him, and in what manner they lived together, till the Fox was accidentally discovered and seized on by Quickscint the Lurcher.*

**R**eynardine the Fox, living at Squire Careless's House, and not only providing for himself, but often brought Presents of Poultry, Rabbits and the like for his Master, which greatly pleased him; but his Riot and Extravagance was so great, in keeping open House, and entertaining lewd Fellows, as Fidlers, Morrice-dancers, and the like, that a while after the Fox came hither, his Creditors Clamours frighted him away, and all he had was seiz'd on: nay, the Fox, had he not been nimble, to escape thro' a Hole, had fallen into their Clutches, and been a Slave, or his Skin, perhaps, sold to the Furrier, to pay part of his Master's Debts.

The Fox thus luckily escaping at breaking up of House-keeping, was however, put to shift for a new Master, not daring to venture much abroad in the Day-time, as knowing the Lurcher and others were yet abroad in search of him: and therefore casting in his mind whether to go, at length he bethought himself of an old Miser, call'd Gripepenny, who liv'd a miserable covetous life, though the Fox, the Incomes I shall bring him by in

158 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*

Theft will make this Fellow entertain me with a good Will. To his House therefore he hasted, and proffered him his Service; but when the Miser heard he had been a Servant to Squire *Careless*, he took up a Staff, crying out, Varlet, hence from my Door, with speed, or I will cripple you, you are one of those extravagant Villains that ruined my careless and foolish Neighbour: and would you get Entertainment in my House to ruin me too? Away with you Rascal.

The Fox hearing this Language, began mildly to intreat him, saying, Have patience a little, and I will satisfie you other ways. As how? as how? Speak quickly then, said *Gripepenny*. Why, reverend Sir, said the Fox, tho' I liv'd with Squire *Careless*, yet I eat not of his Meat, nor drank of his Cup, all I had of him was but a little Lodging, and for that I greatly recompenced him, for few Nights passed, but ranging abroad, I brought him either a Pig, Goose, Turkey, Pullet, Cock, Capon, Duck, Rabbit or the like; which might have supplied his House in a great measure, had not his riotous way of living been so excessive.

This made the Miser rejoyce, and thereupon requested him to come in; then he demanded if he would serve on these Terms: Yes, said the Fox, withal my Heart, if may have my free liberty to go and come when I please, That you shall, said the Miser, if I find you faithful and diligent in what you have promised. Doubt not that said, the Fox; but then I must have Holes to go in and out at my Pleasure, to fetch in Provision. That you shall have, said the other. And so all things were accordingly prepared, and he shew'd to his Lodging, in a convenient Hovel in the Back-side, and some Scraps of mouldy Bread and Cheese given him for a present Supply; which he

but

## *The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 159

but badly relish'd ; yet being hungry, and in hopes of better Cheer when he went abroad at Night, he seem'd contented with it, that his new Master might not think he was over fine mouth'd.

No sooner was the Night come, but he went a Forraging in the Neighbouring Hen-roosts, and having sufficed himself with fat Pullen, he brought his Master *Gripepenny* home a fat Goose, he catch'd napping under a Hovel in a Farmer's Yard : This pleased the old Miser wonderfully ; but being too covetous to eat such a dainty Morsel, he pulled it, and sold it in the Market, buying Neck-beef with part of the Money. And thus they lived together. *Reynardine* frequently supplying him, till an unlucky Accident happened.

The Lurcher being still on the Search, and having made a Vow never to return to Court without the Fox, rambling over many other Kingdoms, and scented all the most likely places to find him, but met with Disappointments, when being about to leave off seeking any further, despairing of Success, and yet resolved to keep his Vow, and not return to the Lion's Court, being tired and overheated, he lay down on the backside of *Gripepenny's* House, in a dry Ditch, close under the Pails ; yet long he had not been there, careful and pensive, but, to his great Joy, he espied the Fox coming out at his Hole, but it being yet Day, and he suddenly popping in again, he thought it not fit to seize him, but for fear of being discovered, withdrew to a neighbouring Wood till Night, into which, he doubted not but the Fox would come for his Prey.

In this the Lurcher was not mistaken, for in the dusk of the Evening he came ranging, after his accustomed manner, to see if the Coasts were clear ; for about this Wood there were many Farm-houses



## 160 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*

and so close the Lurcher lay, that he came very near him before he stirred; then whilst the Fox was scenting the Wind, to know which way his Game lay, he suddenly leap'd on him, carrying him by the nape of the Neck into the middle of the Wood; the surprized Fox, all the way crying piteously out for help; and it being then dark, the Lurcher bound him for that Night, and notwithstanding his Flattery and Entreaties, early the next Morning, forced him to go along with him to the Court; where being come, the Fox was immediately committed close Prisoner, and *Quincks* sent the Lurcher, for his Service got great Credit and Applause, the King giving him the Title Lord *Quick-scent*, and caused his honour to be proclaim'd; and, as a Reward, put a Golden Coller about his Neck.

*Moral.*] By *Gripepenny's* entertaining the Fox, when he heard his Story, signifies, that covetous Men for their own Advantage, care not how thievish, or wickedly their Gains are come by. By the Lurcher's taking the Fox at last, denotes, that wicked Men, how cunning soever they be, do not always escape.

### C H A P. VIII.

*The Fox being imprisoned, mediates his Escape; gets his Irons taken off by false Promises to the Goaler, then put a Trick upon him; and attempting to escape, finding it difficult, earth'd himself in the Prison; and upon Enquiry, not being found, the Goaler is hang'd.*

**T**HE Fox lying Pensive in Prison, expecting the time of his approaching Death, and not hoping for Mercy, had many serious thoughts upon him: but the chiefest was, if possible, to make his Escape; but then considering how strongly he was iron'd, and that his Guards were vigilant, if he should attempt it, and not succeed, his Death wou'd be the more speedy, and that not without

## *The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 161

Torments ; However, he often cast it in his Mind, but finding it in a manner impossible, concluded himself overtaken.

Yet pensive in these Thoughts, at length overcoming in his Mind all supposed Difficulties that stood in his way, he resolved to try if any Stratagem might free him : first he flattered with promise of great Reward, his Goaler, if he would take off his Irons, which he said, being too strait, greatly pain'd him ; hoping if he were eased of that Incumbrance, he might be in a fair way to escape ; but in this he found him very difficult : For, said he, if it were known, I shall lose my Place, if not my Life ; especially should your escape be furthered by it ; for I well remember, when you escaped before, those that guarded you, wens without Mercy put to Death, Ah! said the Fox, I know it as well as you, and mourned their Misfortunes much, and often wish'd, I being Guilty, had died, rather than those Innocents have suffered in my place ; but now I have repented me of my Sins, which then I had not done, which made me fearful of Death ; but now my Thoughts are fully prepared for it, and I am so weary of my Life, thro' the Troubles and Fears I have undergone, that I am so far from thinking of making my Escape, that would the King grant me his Pardon, it would be little welcome to me.

Nay, said the Goaler, if to take off your Irons, in way of Courtesie to ease you, might do you a Kindness, could I do it, I so much honour your Race, that I would do you such a Courtesie : But how shall I come by the Reward, if you are executed ; have you any Money about you ? The Reward, said the Fox, you shall be sure of, tho' I have no Money about me ; for when I know I must go to the Place of Execution, I will

162 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*

privately whisper you in the Ear, the Place where I have hid so great a Treasure, as will enrich you and your Kindred all your Days.

The Fox's Irons were no sooner off, tho' he pretended to be crippled with them, but he began to rejoyce, hoping now to have another Tryal for his Escape, to defeat his Enemies of their Expectations; but his main Business was how to get the Goaler out of the way, who had strict Command, on pain of Death, narrowly to watch him Day and Night, till he was delivered into the Executioner's Hands.

Whereupon after he had complained a while his Head aked, he fell a reaching and vomiting, declaring, he was piteous Sick, and desired to have a Physician and a Confessor sent for fearing in the case of the latter, he might die before Sentence was passed upon him, and he was willing to make peace with his Conscience before he departed. The Goaler, who had strick Orders to let none come at him, without they brought the King's Signet, said he could not do this; desiring him in these Extramities, to make use of him, pretending, boasting of his own Parts and Acquirments, to be both Priest and Physician. The Fox was glad to hear this, and desired, in the first place to know what Drugs he had; For, said he, this Disease has before seiz'd me, but never so violently, and threatned me very near with Death, and knowing what I formerly used, if I see your Drugs, I will chuse the most proper.

The Goaler readily obey'd, and fetch'd a confused Medley of such things as he had scorb'd together, to give his Prisoners when sick, hab nab at a venture, either for Killing or Curing; and the Fox having tumbled them over, to his great Satisfaction found a pretty good quantity of *Opium*,

*The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 163

which his Goaler being ignorant of, among others, he chose, and desiring him to fetch him some Wine to mix them with, the better to take them : The Goaler flattering himself, if he pleased him well, and he should now die, he would at large discover to him his Treasure he had hid, and no body beside should know it, fetched a Quart. The Fox reproved him for his Lavishness, as being, he said, far too much for a sick Person. O, replied the Goaler, you may well enough use it, or if you do not, I can well enough dispense with it.

This was to the Fox's purpose, and thereupon, with some of it, he proceeded to mix what Drugs he pleased, secretly conveying the *Opium* into the rest ; then feigning to be much better, heartily thanked him, and told him, he might take it away ; and for his Confession, he would defer it till he saw how he should be, if he thought he should live, he would reserve it to be made at the Gallows, where his own Confessor was to attend him.

The Goaler seemed satisfied, and gulped down the rest of the Wine to the good Recovery of the Fox's Health, and his finding great Favour with the King ; and so sitting down, immediately fell into a profound Sleep. Then the Fox took the Keys and opened the Inner-door, in hopes to open the other and escape ; but there contrary to expectation, he found a Guard, who it seems, watch'd Night and Day ; this much startled him, wherefore he return'd and attempted the Windows, but the Bars were so close, that he could not get his Head thro' ; but then a Project coming into his Mind, he pull'd of some of his Wool and stuck it on the Grates, that however, when search was made, they might think he had escaped that way, as being grown thin and lean by his long Fasting ; and then give over in that place, and

# 184 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*

not mistrusting him there, the Doors being left open, he might escape unseen. Upon this he went and fed lustily on such Provisions as he had, that he might thereby subsist the longer, and so under an old Pair of Stairs in the Passage, earth'd himself, drawing in the Earth and covering himself so close, that he had only a Breathing place, and so continued as long as might be. Now two Days being passed, his Execution was designed the next Morning, and a great Guard came to receive the Prisoner; but instead of this the Goaler awakened from the Effects of his sleepy Dose, in great Perplexity, and about to hang himself thro' Fear of worse Punishment for his Neglect, and the Anger, that at the same time possessed him for his giving Credit to the Fox's Flatteries and Dissimulation, whom he, at the same time, knew had often deceived wiser than himself.

Of him they enquired for the Prisoner, shewing the King's Order for him to deliver him into their Hands; to which he answered, in a distracted manner, he knew not what was become of him, but believed him to be the Devil, for he had got from him invisible, the Doors being shut; telling them the Story of his pretended Sickness, but nothing of his taking off the Irons, nor that himself had profoundly slept. The Fox heard all this, and could not forbear laughing: Then they looked about to see what Place possibly he might get out at, and finding no Suspicion of any, till they came to the Window, where they found his Wool sticking on the Iron-bars; whereupon some said he was gone that Way, but others considering the Narrowness of the Space between, said it was impossible. However, they commanded the Goaler to go along with them, and give an Account of it to the King, that the matter might be rightly under-



## *The History of Reynardine the Fox.* 165

stood, and they freed from Suspicion and Blame; This Fear made him loath to go; but they told him, if he would not go willingly, they would compel him, and then it would look as if he had purposely permitted the Escape; whereupon he accompanied them to Court.

The King hearing the Story, and how he had again been deluded, groan'd with himself for Anger, immediately causing the Goaler to be put to Death with Torments; putting out a fresh Proclamation, and sending Pursuers again in Search of the escaped Fox.

*Moral.] The Fox's dissembling with the Goaler, and promising great Rewards, denotes, Covetousness blinds Mens Fore-sight, and makes them do things that will certainly bring them to Destruction. The Fox's taking this Course, denotes, in a desperate Case, nothing is to be omitted, that carries with it a Shadow of Safety.*

### CHAP. IX.

*Reynardine attempting to escape, is prevented, and brought before the King, and boldly confesses his Crimes; then being ordered to the Gallows, he, by a Stratagem, hangs the Executioner, but is afterwards hang'd and quarter'd himself.*

THE Fox, in his close hiding, being driven to great Straits for want of Provision, and almost stiff'd, began to contrive what way he might yet take to make his Escape, he attempted therefore to dig a Hole under the Prison-wall, and escape that way, but found it so rocky, after he had digg'd half a Fathom, that he could go no further; this put him into a pitiful Plight, whereupon he concluded to lie privately behind the Outward-door, and when it was opened, steal out, if he might, unseen. This



## 166 *The History of Reynardine the Fox.*

This he attempted, but without Success; for scarce was he got out of the Court-yard but he was espy'd and so furiously pursued by many Beasts, that he, in the chase of a Mile or two, was taken, and immediately dragged to the Court, with great Shouts and Acclamations. The King hearing the Noise demanded the Cause, and being told that *Reynardine* was retaken, he greatly rejoiced, commanding he should be brought before him, which he was with a sorrowful and dejected Countenance; then he commanded Manacles should be put on him, to prevent his starting for the future.

This done, he said, *Reynardine*, thou Traytor, you see even Destiny it self has designed you for a shameful Death, from which all your Wiles cannot free you: What can you now say to the many Murders charg'd against you? Hold up your Head, and, if Shame and Horror will permit you, clear your Conscience by a free Confession.

To this the Fox replied, Dread Sovereign, I own myself worthy of Death; for indeed I have grievously offended against your Highness, and hurt most Beasts in the Forests; many I have murdered in Revenge of my Father's Death, and others to prevent being discovered: As to the first, I poison'd the Leopard and Panther, who I was inform'd had betrayed my Father, and brought him to a shameful Death, and thereby pull'd down your Wrath, upon me, and his whole Posterity: *Grimlock* the Mastiff, *Brindle*, and *Tybert* the Cat, I made away least knowing me in my Disguise, they should discover me, and so betray my Life to your Anger: And the like I would have done by others, had I not been prevented; for Self-preservation is a powerful thing, and would make any one, as I think, prefer his own Life before the Life of another. As for the Injury I did to *the Family*, I own I am sorry for it. But

Necessity, that has no Law, drove me to it; You, in part, was the Cause of it, by banishing me, and forcing me into those Straits, which, for the meer Support of my Life, made me commit the Crime, where I had no Malice, nor receiv'd no Injury: My Hypocrisie in pretending to be a Monk, having gotten that Habit, and under a Veil of Sanctity, cheating many, I repent me of it; yet are there many worse Hypocrites than I, that wear them, making Religion a Trade and Gain, more than a real Profession: That I turned Physician I own, and that in meer Emulation to spoil the Ass Doctor's Trade; tho' since, I think there are so many Pretenders, as skilful in Physick as himself, that few but Asses turn Physicians; and as I did a little purposed Mischief, they do a great deal; mine was on a just Revenge, purposely, whilst their is ignorantly, for Lucre and Self-Interest; for where they to be paid if the Patient lived, and not if he died, they would be more careful, or their Trade would be of little Value; but die or die not, it being all one many times, when the Patient's Money is exhausted, and the Disease grows tedious to them, and they know not what to make of it, they try Practises at random, if he lives so, if not, why then truly his time was come and why could help it? And therefore for this, I think, I ought not to be so much blamed, The King hearing him speak thus boldly, and in some measure, justify part of his Proceedings, wondered at his Impudence, and demanded where the Treasure was, he pretended to be hid by ~~the~~ the Enchanter? Oh, replied he, that was in *Æsop's* Fables to gain Credit, that I might get time to escape; and my intended Sacrifices, like Popish Miracles; Nay, now, if I thought, as I believe they will not, smooth Flatteries would pass upon you, I am not so willing to Die, but I would trick you once more. That

That shall not be, said the King, unless you use Witchcraft to vanish into the Air; whereupon he ordered him to be immediately carried into the outward Court, where a Gibbet was erected, and there to be executed; commanding the Lurcher to do that Office, who seem'd very unwilling, but the King's express Command compell'd him to it: Then were his Manacles taken off, and he mounted the Ladder, after the Lurcher, having the Halter about his Neck; being mounted, and the Rope fasten'd to the Gibbet, he desired time to prepare himself, desiring them that were Spectators to join with him in singing Mass, which when they devoutly was doing, poring upon their Books, he slipped the Halter off his Neck, and cast the Noose about the Lurcher's, throwing him off the Ladder, saying, Harm watch, harm catch; and immediately leaping down, narrowly prevented by the long Libard, from escaping; which, whilst they were doing, and not minding the Lurcher, he hung so long till he was quite dead; then they bound the Fox Hand and Foot, carried him up the Ladder, and taking the dead Lurcher out thrust his Head in, and by hard pining his Legs immediately hang'd him. And the King hearing what he had done, caus'd him to be quartered and they set up in the Places where he had done the most Mischief. Then went the Poets to work on his last Speech and Confession, to the Tune of many doleful Ditties, which got them a comfortable Penny in hard Times. 2 A 60

[Moral.] *The Fox's endeavouring to escape, and being prevented, denotes however wicked Men may escape, at length their Cunning fails them. His Confession denotes, that those who do wickedly, will excuse themselves on the wicked Deeds of others. His Hanging the Lurcher, shews, that Malice and Revenge is not overcome by the fear of Death.*

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